Unknown Number in Equations

Explore ideas and representations

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

QUICK REVIEW

A box stands for one missing whole number. Use an inverse operation and substitute to check. For $4 \times \square = 24$, $24 \div 4 = 6$, and $4 \times 6 = 24$. For $24 \div \square = 6$, the missing divisor is 4, not 6.

Worked example

Find the missing whole number: $15 \div \square = 5$. Check it.

1. Use the related fact $15 \div 5 = 3$ to find the missing number 3.
2. Substitute it: $3 \times 5 = 15$ and $15 \div 3 = 5$ are both true.
Answer: $\square = 3$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Find the missing whole number: $4 \times \square = 24$. Check it.

2. Find the missing whole number: $21 \div 3 = \square$. Check it.

3. Find the missing whole number: $\square \times 8 = 40$. Check it.

4. Find the missing whole number: $\square \div 6 = 3$. Check it.

5. Find the missing whole number: $28 \div \square = 4$. Check it.

6. Mia puts 10 in $2 \times \square = 18$. Is she right? Find and check the correct number.

7. 32 beads fill 8 equal bags. Complete $32 \div 8 = \square$ to find beads per bag.

8. Find the missing whole number: $\square \times 5 = 25$. Check it.

Answer Key

1. $\square = 6$.
2. $\square = 7$.
3. $\square = 5$.
4. $\square = 18$.
5. $\square = 7$.
6. $\square = 9$.
7. $\square = 4$.
8. $\square = 5$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Use the related fact $24 \div 4 = 6$ to find the missing number 6.
2. Substitute it: $4 \times 6 = 24$ and $24 \div 4 = 6$ are both true.

Problem 2

1. Use the related fact $3 \times 7 = 21$ to find the missing number 7.
2. Substitute it: $3 \times 7 = 21$ and $21 \div 3 = 7$ are both true.

Problem 3

1. Use the related fact $40 \div 8 = 5$ to find the missing number 5.
2. Substitute it: $5 \times 8 = 40$ and $40 \div 5 = 8$ are both true.

Problem 4

1. Use the related fact $6 \times 3 = 18$ to find the missing number 18.
2. Substitute it: $6 \times 3 = 18$ and $18 \div 6 = 3$ are both true.

Problem 5

1. Use the related fact $28 \div 4 = 7$ to find the missing number 7.
2. Substitute it: $7 \times 4 = 28$ and $28 \div 7 = 4$ are both true.

Problem 6

1. Use the related fact $18 \div 2 = 9$ to find the missing number 9.
2. Substitute it: $2 \times 9 = 18$ and $18 \div 2 = 9$ are both true.

Problem 7

1. Use the related fact $8 \times 4 = 32$ to find the missing number 4.
2. Substitute it: $8 \times 4 = 32$ and $32 \div 8 = 4$ are both true.

Problem 8

1. Use the related fact $25 \div 5 = 5$ to find the missing number 5.
2. Substitute it: $5 \times 5 = 25$ and $25 \div 5 = 5$ are both true.

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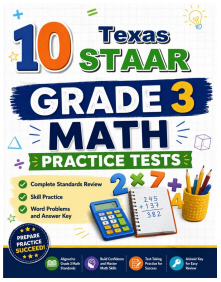

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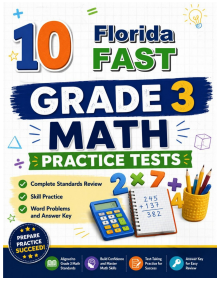

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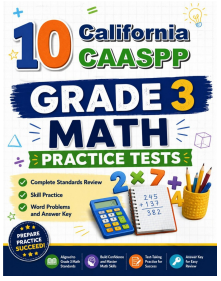

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