Multistep Word Problems

Explore ideas and representations

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

QUICK REVIEW

Use the order in the story, then check the units. For 3 packs of 8 cards with 5 given away: $3 \times 8 = 24$ cards and $24 - 5 = 19$ cards left. A remainder means a partial group; $19 \div 4 = 4$ remainder 3 needs 5 boxes if every card must fit.

Worked example

A club buys 4 packs of 9 pencils and gives away 11. How many remain?

1. $4 \times 9 = 36$ pencils are bought.
2. $36 - 11 = 25$ pencils remain.
3. $25 + 11 = 36$ checks the subtraction.
Answer: 25 pencils.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. A baker makes 5 trays of 12 rolls and sells 37. How many remain?

2. A class collects 28 cans Monday and 35 Tuesday, then packs 7 per bag. How many full bags?

3. Six teams have 8 players each; 5 players leave. How many players stay?

4. A bus has 54 seats. There are 4 groups of 11 riders. How many seats are empty?

5. 31 students and 4 teachers ride vans with 8 seats. How many vans are needed?

6. Fix: 4 bags of 9 apples, with 7 eaten, leaves $4 \times (9 - 7) = 8$.

7. After selling 18 cards, a club has 3 equal stacks of 14. How many cards did it start with?

8. Draw a bar for 2 boxes of 15 pens and 6 loose pens. Find the total.



Answer Key

1. 23 rolls.
2. 9 bags.
3. 43 players.
4. 10 seats.
5. 5 vans.
6. 29 apples.
7. 60 cards.
8. 36 pens.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. $5 \times 12 = 60$.
2. $60 - 37 = 23$.
3. $23 + 37 = 60$.

Problem 2

1. $28 + 35 = 63$.
2. $63 \div 7 = 9$.
3. $9 \times 7 = 63$.

Problem 3

1. $6 \times 8 = 48$.
2. $48 - 5 = 43$.
3. $43 + 5 = 48$.

Problem 4

1. $4 \times 11 = 44$.
2. $54 - 44 = 10$.
3. $44 + 10 = 54$.

Problem 5

1. $31 + 4 = 35$ riders.
2. $35 \div 8 = 4$ remainder 3, since $4 \times 8 = 32$.
3. The last 3 riders need another van: $4 + 1 = 5$.

Problem 6

1. All bags hold $4 \times 9 = 36$ apples.
2. Only 7 total are eaten: $36 - 7 = 29$.
3. The wrong equation removes 7 from each bag, or 28 apples.

Problem 7

1. The remaining stacks hold $3 \times 14 = 42$ cards.
2. Put the sold cards back: $42 + 18 = 60$.
3. $60 - 18 = 42$ checks the start.

Problem 8

1. The two boxes give $2 \times 15 = 30$ pens.
2. The loose pens add $30 + 6 = 36$.
3. $36 - 6 = 30$ checks the boxed part.

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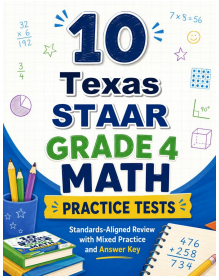

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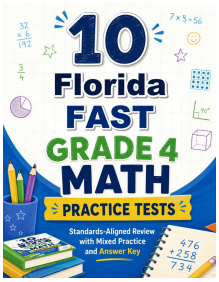

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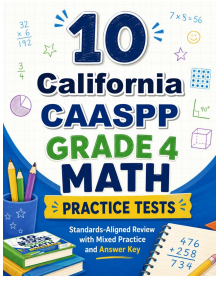

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