

Multiplication and Division Word Problems

Read, draw, write an equation, solve!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Before you solve: 1) Underline the question. 2) Draw a picture. 3) Write an equation. 4) Solve and check.

1. Multiply to Solve

Underline the question. Draw a picture. Write an equation. Solve.

Each starfish has 5 arms. How many arms do 7 starfish have?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \times _ = _$

Answer: $_$

A fisher puts 9 fish in each net. She fills 6 nets. How many fish does she have?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \times _ = _$

Answer: $_$

There are 4 shells in each bucket. A beachcomber fills 8 buckets. How many shells are there?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \times _ = _$

Answer: $_$

A boat holds 10 children. 7 boats are full. How many children are on the boats?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \times _ = _$

Answer: $_$

2. Divide to Solve

Underline the question. Draw a picture. Write an equation. Solve.

24 crabs sit on rocks. There are 4 crabs on each rock. How many rocks are there?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \div _ = _$

Answer: $_$

18 pearls are shared equally among 3 oysters. How many pearls does each oyster get?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \div _ = _$

Answer: $_$

40 fish swim in schools of 5. How many schools are there?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \div _ = _$

Answer: $_$

63 shells are put equally into 7 baskets. How many shells are in each basket?

Draw:

Equation: $_ \div _ = _$

Answer: $_$

3. Two-Step Problems

Underline the question. Solve step 1. Then solve step 2.

- 1) A diver packs 8 shells in each bag and fills 6 bags.
She then gives away 9 shells. How many shells are left?

Step 1: _____ = _____ Step 2: _____ = _____ Answer: _____

- 2) A fisher catches 5 fish in each net. He uses 7 nets.
Then he puts 12 fish back in the sea. How many fish does he keep?

Step 1: _____ = _____ Step 2: _____ = _____ Answer: _____

- 3) An aquarium puts 30 fish equally into 5 tanks.
Then it adds 4 more fish to each tank. How many fish are in each tank now?

Step 1: _____ = _____ Step 2: _____ = _____ Answer: _____

4. Find the Unknown

Write an equation with a box or a letter for the unknown number.
Solve. Then check with multiplication.

Example: 4 nets hold 28 fish in all. Each net holds the same number.

Let f = the fish in each net.

Equation: $4 \times f = 28$. So $f = 7$.

- a) 5 jars hold 45 shells in all. Each jar holds the same number.
Use a box for the unknown.

Equation: _____ Answer: _____ Check: $\times = =$

- b) 36 fish are put equally into 4 tanks.
Use the letter n for the number of fish in each tank.

Equation: _____ Answer: _____ Check: $\times = =$

- c) 7 sea otters each eat the same number of clams.
They eat 56 clams in all.
Use the letter c for the number each otter eats.

Equation: _____ Answer: _____ Check: $\times = =$

Answer Key: Multiplication and Division Word Problems



Section 1:

- 1) $5 \times 7 = 35$ arms
- 2) $9 \times 6 = 54$ fish
- 3) $4 \times 8 = 32$ shells
- 4) $10 \times 7 = 70$ children

Section 2:

- 1) $24 \div 4 = 6$ rocks
- 2) $18 \div 3 = 6$ pearls
- 3) $40 \div 5 = 8$ schools
- 4) $63 \div 7 = 9$ shells

Section 3:

- 1) Step 1: $8 \times 6 = 48$. Step 2: $48 - 9 = 39$. Answer: 39 shells.
- 2) Step 1: $5 \times 7 = 35$. Step 2: $35 - 12 = 23$. Answer: 23 fish.
- 3) Step 1: $30 \div 5 = 6$. Step 2: $6 + 4 = 10$. Answer: 10 fish.

Section 4:

- a) $5 \times \square = 45$; $\square = 9$; check $5 \times 9 = 45$
- b) $36 \div 4 = n$ (or $4 \times n = 36$); $n = 9$; check $4 \times 9 = 36$
- c) $7 \times c = 56$ (or $56 \div 7 = c$); $c = 8$; check $7 \times 8 = 56$.
Students may write an equivalent equation.

