LESSON MAKER PRO

Find the Missing Number

Turn stories into equations with letters.

GRADE 4 · 4.AT.A.4.a

4.AT.A.4.a "Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CHOOSE A LETTER

Choose a letter to stand for the number you do not know. Write an equation that matches the story, then find the letter's value. For each problem, show your equation and the value of your letter.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A box has 17 markers. After 5 markers are taken out, how many are left?

1. Let m stand for the number of markers left.
2. Write the equation: 17 - 5 = m.
3. Subtract: 12 = m.

Answer: 17 - 5 = m; m = 12

PRACTICE 6 problems

1 A shelf has 24 books. A student adds 9 books. How many books are on the shelf now?

ANSWER _____

2 A pack has 31 stickers. Some are used, and 18 remain. How many stickers were used?

ANSWER _____

3 Jules had some trading cards. After getting 14 more, Jules had 42. How many cards did Jules have at first?

ANSWER _____

4 There are 7 players on each of 6 teams. How many players are there in all?

ANSWER _____

5 A teacher puts 63 beads into 9 equal bags. How many beads go in each bag?

ANSWER _____

6 A sticker album has 54 stickers. Each page holds 6 stickers. How many pages are full?

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

1 Mina had 68 tokens at the arcade. After playing a game, she had 47 tokens left. How many tokens did the game cost? Write an equation using a letter for the cost, then solve.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

2 Three friends each earn the same number of points in a reading challenge. Together they earn 81 points. How many points does each friend earn? Write an equation using a letter for one friend's points, then solve.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

At a school carnival, 4 friends each buy a game ticket for the same price. They also spend $6 on snacks. They spend $38 in all. Write an equation using a letter for the price of one ticket, then solve.

WORK SPACE AND ANSWER

ANSWER KEY

Find the Missing Number

GRADE 4 · 4.AT.A.4.a

PART 1 · PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	A shelf has 24 books. A student adds 9 books. How many books are on the shelf now?	**24 + 9 = b; b = 33**
2	A pack has 31 stickers. Some are used, and 18 remain. How many stickers were used?	**31 - s = 18; s = 13**
3	Jules had some trading cards. After getting 14 more, Jules had 42. How many cards did Jules have at first?	**c + 14 = 42; c = 28**
4	There are 7 players on each of 6 teams. How many players are there in all?	**6 × 7 = p; p = 42**
5	A teacher puts 63 beads into 9 equal bags. How many beads go in each bag?	**9 × b = 63; b = 7**
6	A sticker album has 54 stickers. Each page holds 6 stickers. How many pages are full?	**6 × p = 54; p = 9**

PART 2 · APPLY IT

1. **68 - t = 47; t = 21 tokens** Subtract 47 from 68 to find the number of tokens spent.
2. **3 × p = 81; p = 27 points** Divide 81 by 3 to find each friend's points.

CHALLENGE

4 × t + 6 = 38; t = $8

Accept any letter for the unknown. Accept equivalent equations that correctly represent each story and give the correct value.