

Multi-Step Word Problems

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

Quick Review

A **multi-step word problem** takes more than one operation to solve. The trick is to work in **steps**: figure out what you can find **first**, then use that answer to find what comes **next**. Read carefully and watch the order — usually you **multiply or divide** before you **add or subtract**. After you finish, always ask yourself, **“Does my answer make sense?”** Estimating first is a great way to catch mistakes.

◇ **Example:** Maria buys 5 packs of pencils with 6 pencils in each pack. Then she finds 4 more pencils in her desk. How many pencils does she have in all?
 ⇒ Let’s break this into two steps. First, find how many pencils are in the packs: $5 \times 6 = 30$. Now add the 4 extra pencils she found: $30 + 4 = 34$. Doing the multiplication first and the addition second gives us 34 pencils altogether.

Answer: 34 pencils

PRACTICE

Solve each multi-step problem. Work one step at a time.

- 5 boxes of 6 crayons, plus 4 loose crayons. How many crayons in all? _____
- 8 bags with 3 apples each, then 7 apples are eaten. How many apples are left? _____
- 24 cookies shared into 4 equal plates, then 9 more cookies are added to the plates. How many cookies are there now? _____
- 7 tables with 5 chairs, plus 7 tables with 2 stools. How many seats in all? _____
- Start with 50 stickers, give away 3 sheets of 8. How many stickers are left? _____
- 6 rows of 9 seats, plus 12 extra seats. How many seats total? _____
- Start with 100 beads, use 4 strings of 15 beads. How many beads are left? _____
- 9 red marbles per bag in 4 bags, plus 9 blue marbles per bag. How many marbles in all? _____
- 36 pretzels shared among 6 kids, then each kid gets 8 more. How many pretzels does each kid have? _____
- 12 packs of 5 stamps, then 20 stamps are mailed. How many stamps are left? _____

Word Problems

- Ben packs 4 lunch boxes with 6 granola bars in each. On the way to school he gives 9 bars to friends, then his mom hands him 12 more. How many granola bars does Ben have now? _____
- For a class party, the teacher buys 3 trays of 8 muffins and 5 bags of 4 cookies. How many treats did the teacher buy altogether? _____



23. A school has 120 library books to share. First 7 classrooms each take 9 books. The rest are split evenly among 3 reading corners. How many books does each reading corner get? _____

24. Grace has 9 boxes with 8 colored pencils in each. She gives 12 pencils to her little brother, then puts the rest into 6 cups with the same number in each. How many pencils go in each cup? _____



Answer Keys

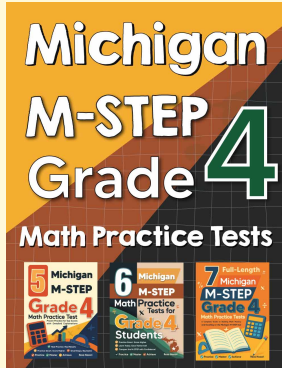
- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 34 crayons 2. 17 apples 3. 15 cookies 4. 49 seats 5. 26 stickers 6. 66 seats 7. 40 beads 8. 63 marbles 9. 14 pretzels 10. 40 stamps 11. 39 flowers 12. 7 cards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. 80 books 14. 50 pennies 15. 6 grapes 16. 114 players 17. 25 donuts 18. 57 stickers 19. 110 oranges 20. 120 nuts 21. 27 granola bars 22. 44 treats 23. 19 books 24. 10 pencils |
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Step-by-Step Explanations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First $5 \times 6 = 30$, then $30 + 4 = 34$. 2. First $8 \times 3 = 24$, then $24 - 7 = 17$. 3. First $24 \div 4 = 6$, then $6 + 9 = 15$. 4. $7 \times 5 = 35$ and $7 \times 2 = 14$, so $35 + 14 = 49$. 5. First $3 \times 8 = 24$, then $50 - 24 = 26$. 6. First $6 \times 9 = 54$, then $54 + 12 = 66$. 7. First $4 \times 15 = 60$, then $100 - 60 = 40$. 8. $9 \times 4 = 36$ and $9 \times 3 = 27$, so $36 + 27 = 63$. 9. First $36 \div 6 = 6$, then $6 + 8 = 14$. 10. First $12 \times 5 = 60$, then $60 - 20 = 40$. 11. $3 \times 7 = 21$ and $3 \times 6 = 18$, so $21 + 18 = 39$. 12. First $84 \div 7 = 12$, then $12 - 5 = 7$. 13. $8 \times 8 = 64$ and $8 \times 2 = 16$, so $64 + 16 = 80$. 14. First $6 \times 25 = 150$, then $200 - 150 = 50$. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. First $15 + 9 = 24$, then $24 \div 4 = 6$. 16. First $7 \times 12 = 84$, then $84 + 30 = 114$. 17. $5 \times 9 = 45$ and $5 \times 4 = 20$, so $45 - 20 = 25$. 18. First $96 \div 8 = 12$, then $12 + 45 = 57$. 19. First $9 \times 15 = 135$, then $135 - 25 = 110$. 20. $6 \times 13 = 78$ and $6 \times 7 = 42$, so $78 + 42 = 120$. 21. Step by step: $4 \times 6 = 24$ bars packed. Then $24 - 9 = 15$ after sharing, and $15 + 12 = 27$ after his mom adds more. Ben has 27 bars. 22. Find each amount first: $3 \times 8 = 24$ muffins and $5 \times 4 = 20$ cookies. Then add: $24 + 20 = 44$ treats in all. 23. The classrooms take $7 \times 9 = 63$ books. That leaves $120 - 63 = 57$ books. Split among 3 corners: $57 \div 3 = 19$ books each. 24. First $9 \times 8 = 72$ pencils. After giving some away, $72 - 12 = 60$. Split into 6 cups: $60 \div 6 = 10$ pencils each. |
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