MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Equal groups

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you make groups that all have the same number, like dealing out cards or setting places at tables. Each group gets the same amount, and counting the groups and the size of each group tells you the total. That is where multiplication begins, since a total made of equal groups is just a multiplication. Once you see it, you can work out totals without counting every single item.



Rule

Equal groups: when every group has the same number, the total is the number of groups times the number in each group.

So 3 groups of 4 is 3 × 4 = 12.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Twelve cookies are shared equally onto 3 plates. How many cookies are on each plate?



SOLUTION

This is a sharing story: we know the number of groups, 3 plates, and we want the size of each group.

Total ÷ number of groups: 12 ÷ 3 = 4

So there are 4 cookies on each plate.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Priya has 15 stickers. She puts 5 stickers on each page. How many pages does she fill?

SOLUTION

This is a grouping story: we know the size of each group, 5 stickers, and we want how many groups there are.

Total ÷ group size: 15 ÷ 5 = 3

So she fills 3 pages. Same division, told the other way round.

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Practice questions

1. 18 apples are shared equally among 3 baskets. How many apples are in each basket?

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2. 24 marbles are put into bags with 6 marbles in each bag. How many bags are needed?

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3. There are 4 bags with 6 marbles in each bag. How many marbles are there in all?

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4 Sam has 20 apples. He puts the same number in each of 4 baskets, and has 4 apples left over. How many apples are in each basket?

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5 Which of these is NOT made of equal groups?

A. 3 bags with 4 marbles in each bag

B. 2 plates with 5 cookies on each plate

C. 4 boxes with 3, 3, 4 and 5 pencils

D. 5 rows with 2 chairs in each row

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6 Marcus puts 24 marbles into bags. Each bag holds 6 marbles. Is this a sharing or a grouping story?

A Sharing

B Grouping

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7 Diego has 5 bags with 8 marbles in each bag. He shares all the marbles equally among 4 friends. How many marbles does each friend get?

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8 Mia has 12 stickers. She puts them into bags with 3 stickers in each bag. Then she puts the bags into 2 boxes with the same number of bags in each box. How many bags are in each box?

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9 Write the division sentence for 3 equal groups of 4 making 12.

- **A** 12 ÷ 3 = 3
- **B** 12 ÷ 3 = 4
- **C** 12 ÷ 3 = 5
- **D** 3 ÷ 12 = 4

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10 Which one does not make 16?

- **A** 2 equal groups of 8
- **B** 4 equal groups of 4
- **C** 3 equal groups of 5

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ANSWER KEY

1. 6

2. 4

3. 24

4. 4

5. 4 boxes with 3, 3, 4 and 5 pencils

6. Grouping

7. 10

8. 2

9. 12 ÷ 3 = 4

10. 3 equal groups of 5

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