Repeated addition

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you first see what multiplication means, like adding 3 apples again and again for each of 4 friends to find out how many you need. Three apples for the first friend, three more for the second, and so on, until all four friends have three each. A row of chairs added again and again, or a set of plates added for each guest, is the same idea. Repeated addition is multiplication in its simplest form, and it is how the idea first makes sense.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q $4 + 4 + 4 = ?$

SOLUTION

There are three groups of 4.

Add them one group at a time: 4 + 4 = 8

Then 8 + 4 = 12, so the total is 12.

EXAMPLE 2

Q $5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = ?$

SOLUTION

There are four groups of 5.

Add them: 5 + 5 = 10, then 10 + 5 = 15

Then 15 + 5 = 20, so the total is 20.

Practice questions

1 3 bags hold 3 marbles each. Work out 3 + 3 + 3. What is the total?

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2 4 boxes hold 2 pencils each. Which repeated addition shows the total?

- **A** 2 + 2 + 2 + 2
- **B** 4 + 4 + 4
- **C** 2 + 2
- **D** 4 + 2 + 2 + 2

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3 An insect has 6 legs. Two insects have 12 legs. How many groups of 6 were added?

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4 You read 4 pages every night for 4 nights. Which multiplication gives the total?

- **A** 4 × 4 = 16
- **B** 4 + 4 = 8
- **C** 4 × 3 = 12
- **D** 8 × 4 = 32

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5 A week has 7 days. Three weeks have 21 days. In 7 + 7 + 7, what does each 7 stand for?

- **A** Days in one week
- **B** Number of weeks
- **C** Total number of days
- **D** Days in three weeks

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6

Which of these is a repeated addition?

A 10 + 10 + 10

B 10 + 5 + 3

C 10 + 11 + 12

D 5 + 10 + 15

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7

You save 5 dollars every week. You have saved 10 dollars. How many weeks did you save?

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8 8 + 8 + 8 = 24. What multiplication is the same?

- **A** 8 × 3 = 24
- **B** 8 + 3 = 11
- **C** 3 × 3 = 9
- **D** 24 × 8 = 192

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9 Five friends each find 1 shell on the beach. In 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1, what number is added again and again?

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10 A team scores 9 points in the first half and 9 points in the second half. What number must you add to 9 to get 18?

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ANSWER KEY

1. 9

2. 2 + 2 + 2 + 2

3. 2

4. 4 × 4 = 16

5. Days in one week

6. 10 + 10 + 10

7. 2

8. 8 × 3 = 24

9. 1

10. 9

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