Add or subtract? Story problems worksheet

2nd grade math · Operations & Algebraic Thinking · 2.OA.A.1

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 9 add or subtract? story problems problems, easier ones first. Let your child try each one alone, then check together with the answer key on page 2. Circle one answer where there are choices.

1. **Kenji had 19 tickets. Kenji won 14 more. How many tickets does Kenji have now? What kind of story is this?**

   ○ **Comparing** ○ **Putting together**
   ○ **Taking from** ○ **Adding to**

2. **Ava had 9 rocks. Ava collected some more. Now Ava has 32. How many rocks did Ava collect? Do you add or subtract?**

   ○ **+ add** ○ **– subtract**

3. **Kenji has 15 beads. Jamal has 5 beads. How many beads do they have altogether? Do you add or subtract?**

   ○ **+ add** ○ **– subtract**

4. **There were 11 ducks on a pond. 21 more swam over. How many ducks are on the pond now? Which number sentence matches the story?**

   ○ **? + 11 = 21** ○ **11 + 21 = ?**
   ○ **11 + ? = 21** ○ **21 – 11 = ?**

5. **There were 23 ducks on a pond. Some of them swam away. Now there are 4. How many ducks swam away? Which number sentence matches the story?**

   ○ **23 + 4 = ?** ○ **? – 23 = 4**
   ○ **23 – ? = 4** ○ **? – 4 = 23**

6. **Jamal had 27 acorns. Jamal dropped 17 of them. How many acorns does Jamal have now? Which number sentence matches the story?**

   ○ **27 – 17 = ?** ○ **? – 27 = 17**
   ○ **27 + 17 = ?** ○ **? – 17 = 27**

7. **Omar had 62 shells. Omar gave away some of them. Now Omar has 42 left. How many shells did Omar give away?**

   Answer: _____

8. **Lily has 28 more beads than Mateo. Lily has 79 beads. How many beads does Mateo have?**

   Answer: _____

9. **Sofia has 10 cookies. Mateo has 60 more cookies than Sofia. How many cookies does Mateo have?**

   Answer: _____

Answer key: Add or subtract? Story problems

2nd grade math · More practice and a guide for parents at tutorsaurus.com/learn/2nd-grade/story-detective-add-sub

1. **Adding to**
   This is an adding-to story. We are looking for the whole, so add: 19 + 14 = 33.
2. **– subtract**
   This is an adding-to story. We know the whole, 32, so take away the part we know: 32 – 9 = 23.
3. **+ add**
   This is a putting-together story: two parts make the whole. 15 + 5 = 20.
4. **11 + 21 = ?**
   11 + 21 = 32 is true, and it follows the story. This is an adding-to story. We are looking for the whole, so add: 11 + 21 = 32.
5. **23 – ? = 4**
   23 – 19 = 4 is true, and it follows the story. This is a taking-from story. We know the whole, 23, so take away the part we know: 23 – 4 = 19.
6. **27 – 17 = ?**
   27 – 17 = 10 is true, and it follows the story. This is a taking-from story. We know the whole, 27, so take away the part we know: 27 – 17 = 10.
7. **20**
   This is a taking-from story. We know the whole, 62, so take away the part we know: 62 – 42 = 20.
8. **51**
   This is a compare story. The word more is a clue, not a rule: Lily has the bigger amount. 79 – 28 = 51.
9. **70**
   This is a compare story. 10 + 60 = 70.