Multiply or divide stories worksheet

3rd grade math · Operations & Algebraic Thinking · 3.OA.A.3

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 10 multiply or divide stories 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. **12 marbles are shared equally among 6 friends. How many marbles does each friend get? What is the question asking for?**

   ○ How many in each group
   ○ The total ○ How many groups

2. **There are 4 plates. Each plate has 6 cookies. How many cookies are there altogether? What kind of story is this?**

   ○ Equal groups ○ An array

3. **20 marbles are shared equally among 5 friends. How many marbles does each friend get? What kind of story is this?**

   ○ Sharing: how many in each
   ○ Grouping: how many groups

4. **A window has 5 rows of panes, with 3 panes in each row. How many panes are there? Which operation solves it?**

   ○ + add ○ – subtract ○ × multiply
   ○ ÷ divide

5. **Zoe has 9 tanks with 5 fish in each tank. How many fish are there in all? Which number sentence matches the story?**

   ○ 9 × 5 = ? ○ 9 – 5 = ? ○ 9 + 5 = ?

6. **A garden has 45 carrots in 5 equal rows. How many carrots are in each row? Which number sentence matches the story?**

   ○ 45 × 5 = ? ○ 45 – 5 = ?
   ○ 45 ÷ 5 = ? ○ ? ÷ 45 = 5

7. **Ava puts 15 books into 3 shelves, the same number in each. How many books go in each shelf? Which number sentence matches the story?**

   ○ 15 + 3 = ? ○ 15 ÷ 3 = ?
   ○ 15 × 3 = ? ○ 15 – 3 = ?

8. **There are 27 apples in all. Each bag holds 3. How many bags are needed?**

   Answer: _____

9. **There are 8 bananas in all. Each bunch holds 2. How many bunches are needed?**

   Answer: _____

10. **There are 35 bananas in all. Each bunch holds 7. How many bunches are needed?**

    Answer: _____

Answer key: Multiply or divide stories

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1. **How many in each group**
   It asks for how many in each group. This is an equal-groups story. 12 ÷ 6 = 2.
2. **Equal groups**
   This is an equal-groups story. 4 × 6 = 24.
3. **Sharing: how many in each**
   This is an equal-groups story. 20 ÷ 5 = 4.
4. **× multiply**
   This is an array story. 5 × 3 = 15.
5. **9 × 5 = ?**
   9 × 5 = 45 is true, and it follows the story. This is an equal-groups story. 9 × 5 = 45.
6. **45 ÷ 5 = ?**
   45 ÷ 5 = 9 is true, and it follows the story. This is an array story. 45 ÷ 5 = 9.
7. **15 ÷ 3 = ?**
   15 ÷ 3 = 5 is true, and it follows the story. This is an equal-groups story. 15 ÷ 3 = 5.
8. **9**
   This is an equal-groups story. The words in all tell you the total, which you already know, so divide. 27 ÷ 3 = 9.
9. **4**
   This is an equal-groups story. The words in all tell you the total, which you already know, so divide. 8 ÷ 2 = 4.
10. **5**
    This is an equal-groups story. The words in all tell you the total, which you already know, so divide. 35 ÷ 7 = 5.