Which operation? Word problems worksheet

4th grade math · Operations & Algebraic Thinking · 4.OA.A.3

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 8 which operation? word 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. **Leo and Kenji have 917 shells altogether. Leo has 328. How many shells does Kenji have? Which operation solves it?**

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

2. **Kenji had 810 tickets. Kenji spent 688 of them. How many tickets does Kenji have now? Which operation solves it?**

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

3. **Nia had 279 tickets. Nia won some more. Now Nia has 746. How many tickets did Nia win? Which operation solves it?**

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

4. **Zoe has 28 cookies. That is 7 times as many as Sofia has. How many cookies does Sofia have? Which equation matches the story? (n is the number you are looking for.)**

   ○ n + 7 = 28 ○ 28 – 7 = n ○ 7 × 28 = n ○ 7 × n = 28

5. **80 bananas are shared equally among 4 friends. How many bananas does each friend get? Which equation matches the story? (n is the number you are looking for.)**

   ○ 80 + 4 = n ○ n ÷ 80 = 4 ○ 80 ÷ 4 = n ○ 80 × 4 = n

6. **Zoe has 11 stamps. Nia has 7 times as many. How many stamps do they have altogether? Which equation matches the story? (n is the number you are looking for.)**

   ○ n = 11 + 7 + 11 ○ n = 11 + 7 ○ n = 11 + 7 × 11 ○ n = 7 × 11

7. **Sofia has 446 beads. Jamal has 255 more beads than Sofia. How many beads does Jamal have?**

   Answer: _____

8. **4 friends shared some pretzels. Each friend got 43. How many pretzels did they share?**

   Answer: _____

Answer key: Which operation? Word problems

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1. **– subtract**
   This is a putting-together story with a part missing. The word altogether tells you the whole, not that you add. 917 – 328 = 589.

2. **– subtract**
   This is a taking-from story. We know the whole, 810, so take away the part we know: 810 – 688 = 122.

3. **– subtract**
   This is an adding-to story. We know the whole, 746, so take away the part we know: 746 – 279 = 467.

4. **7 × n = 28**
   7 × 4 = 28 is true, and it follows the story. This is a times-as-many compare story. The word times is a clue, not a rule: 28 is the bigger amount, so divide. 28 ÷ 7 = 4.

5. **80 ÷ 4 = n**
   80 ÷ 4 = 20 is true, and it follows the story. This is an equal-groups story. 80 ÷ 4 = 20.

6. **n = 11 + 7 × 11**
   88 = 11 + 7 × 11 is true, and it follows the story. This is a two-step story. Nia has 7 × 11 = 77. Together: 11 + 77 = 88.

7. **701**
   This is a compare story. 446 + 255 = 701.

8. **172**
   This is an equal-groups story. The word shared is a clue, not a rule: we know 4 equal shares of 43 and need the total, so multiply. 4 × 43 = 172.