Two-step word problems · Worked key

Multiply and divide

Read the first quantity with its unit. Other correct equations are welcome.

1. Labels made in one minute

54 ÷ 9 = 6 labels per minute.

6 × 3 = 18 labels. n = (54 ÷ 9) × 3.

Check: using 5 and 10 for the first amount gives 15 and 30.
The exact answer, 18, falls between those bounds.

Open guided practice for problem 1

2. Total beads

9 × 5 = 45 beads.

45 ÷ 3 = 15 beads per class. n = (9 × 5) ÷ 3.

Check: using 30 and 60 for the first amount gives 10 and 20.
The exact answer, 15, falls between those bounds.

Another route: 9 ÷ 3 = 3 boxes per class; 3 × 5 = 15.

Open guided practice for problem 2

3. Total plants

6 × 4 = 24 plants.

24 ÷ 3 = 8 plants per team. n = (6 × 4) ÷ 3.

Check: using 18 and 30 for the first amount gives 6 and 10.
The exact answer, 8, falls between those bounds.

Another route: 6 ÷ 3 = 2 trays per team; 2 × 4 = 8.

Open guided practice for problem 3

4. Patches in one bundle

16 ÷ 4 = 4 patches per bundle.

4 × 2 = 8 patches. n = (16 ÷ 4) × 2.

Check: using 0 and 5 for the first amount gives 0 and 10.
The exact answer, 8, falls between those bounds.

Open guided practice for problem 4