Two-step multiplication word problems

Add or subtract with multiplication

Name _____ Date _____

Show both steps. Use n for the unknown and include the unit in your answer.

1. A nursery has 9 trays with 6 seedlings in every tray. It plants 4 seedlings from this supply. How many seedlings are left?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

2. A class fills 6 cartons with 7 pencils per carton. Another 8 pencils are on the desk. How many pencils are there altogether?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

3. Every art packet has 2 blue shapes and 3 gold shapes. There are 3 identical packets. How many shapes are there in all?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

4. There are 8 counters in each of 6 trays. A learner takes 2 counters from each tray. How many counters are left in the trays?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

Two-step word problems · Worked key

Add or subtract with multiplication

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

1. Seedlings before planting

9 × 6 = 54 seedlings.

54 - 4 = 50 seedlings. n = (9 × 6) - 4.

Check: using 50 and 60 for the first amount gives 46 and 56.
The exact answer, 50, falls between those bounds.

Open guided practice for problem 1

2. Pencils in the cartons

6 × 7 = 42 pencils.

42 + 8 = 50 pencils. n = (6 × 7) + 8.

Check: using 40 and 50 for the first amount gives 48 and 58.
The exact answer, 50, falls between those bounds.

Open guided practice for problem 2

3. Shapes in one packet

2 + 3 = 5 shapes per packet.

5 × 3 = 15 shapes. n = (2 + 3) × 3.

Check: using 0 and 10 for the first amount gives 0 and 30.
The exact answer, 15, falls between those bounds.

Open guided practice for problem 3

4. Counters left in one tray

8 - 2 = 6 counters per tray.

6 × 6 = 36 counters. n = (8 - 2) × 6.

Check: using 5 and 10 for the first amount gives 30 and 60.
The exact answer, 36, falls between those bounds.

Open guided practice for problem 4