Two-step multiplication word problems

Multiply and divide

Name _____ Date _____

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

1. A printer makes 54 labels in 9 minutes at a steady rate. How many labels will it make in 3 minutes at that rate?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

2. A school has 9 boxes with 5 beads in every box. It shares all the beads equally among 3 classes. How many beads does each class get?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

3. A club has 6 trays with 4 plants per tray. It shares all the plants equally among 3 teams. How many plants does each team get?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

4. A craft team splits 16 patches equally into 4 bundles. It uses 2 whole bundles. How many patches does it use?

First amount and equation _____

Equation for n and answer with unit _____

Estimate or check _____

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