

Problem Solving

Skill 4 - 6F

Equations with Variables

Directions: Write an equation with a variable that shows this problem. Then solve the equation.

Mr. Cole bought a pizza for the swim club. The pizza has 12 slices. The pizza will be divided equally among the swimmers. Each swimmer will eat 3 slices. How many swimmers will eat pizza?

12	\div	y	=	3	
↓		↓		↓	
number of slices of pizza	\div	the number of swimmers	=	the number of slices each swimmer eats	$12 \div y = 3$ $12 \div 4 = 3$ $y = 4$

1. There are some slices of pizza. John takes 2 slices. Now there are 7 slices. How many slices were there before John took 2 slices?

2. Joey puts 21 marbles in an equal number of rows with 7 marbles in each row. How many rows will Joey make?

3. Lena had 15 bracelets. She got some more bracelets as a present from a friend. She now has a total of 21 bracelets. How many bracelets did Lena get from her friend?

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Equations with Variables

Write an equation with a variable that shows this problem. Then solve the equation.

16 slices of pizza divided equally among a number of students is 4 slices each.

16	÷	y	=	4	
↓		↓		↓	
number of slices of pizza		divided equally among how many students?	=	the number of slices each student eats	$16 \div y = 4$ $16 \div 4 = 4$ $y = 4$

- 8 slices of pizza divided equally among a number of students is 2 slices each.
- Jason added 5 matchbox cars to his collection. He now has 37 matchbox cars. How many cars did he have before he added 5 more?
- Marsha had 24 marbles. She gave some away. Now she has 18 marbles. How many marbles did she give away?

Answer Key
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1. There are some slices of pizza. John takes 2 slices. Now there are 7 slices. How many slices were there before John took 2 slices?

$$y - 2 = 7$$
$$9 - 2 = 7$$
$$y = 9$$

There were 9 pieces before John took 2 slices.

2. Joey puts 21 marbles in an equal number of rows with 7 marbles in each row. How many rows will Joey make?

$$21 \div y = 7$$
$$21 \div 3 = 7$$
$$y = 3$$

He will make 3 rows.

3. Lena had 15 bracelets. She got some more bracelets as a present from a friend. She now has a total of 21 bracelets. How many bracelets did Lena get from her friend?

$$15 + x = 21$$
$$15 + 6 = 21$$
$$x = 6$$

Lena got 6 bracelets as a present from a friend.

4. 8 slices of pizza divided equally among a number of students is 2 slices each.

$$8 \div y = 2$$
$$8 \div 4 = 2$$
$$y = 4$$

5. Jason added 5 matchbox cars to his collection. He now has 37 matchbox cars. How many cars did he have before he added 5 more?

$$y + 5 = 37$$
$$32 + 5 = 37$$
$$y = 32$$

Jason had 32 cars before he added 5 more.

6. Marsha had 24 marbles. She gave some away. Now she has 18 marbles. How many marbles did she give away?

$$24 - x = 18$$
$$24 - 6 = 18$$
$$x = 6$$

Marsha gave away 6 marbles.