MathStars

a problem solving newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 10

★★★ 1. Bob and his mother went shopping. These are the bills:

Store A
_____
_____
$13.00

~~Store B~~
_____
_____ $20.00

Store C
_____ _____
_____ $15.00

Store D
_____
_____
_____
$18.00

Can you figure out what they bought?

Prices:

Shirts $8.00	Pants $12.00
Shoes $10.00	Caps $5.00
Belts $4.00	Jackets $16.00

Store A_____

Store B_____

Store C_____

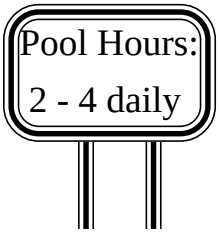
Store D_____

★ 2. Fill in the missing number:

$$9 + 12 = \square + 10$$

★★★ 3. Grandma made four peach pies. She used six peaches for each pie. How many peaches did she use?

★★★★ 4. The neighborhood pool opens at 2:00. You arrive at 2:30. How long can you swim before the pool closes?



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Strategy of the Month

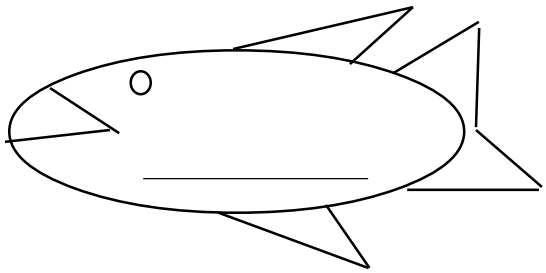
You have tried many ways to solve problems this year. Already you know that when one strategy does not lead you to a solution, you back up and try something else. Sometimes you can find a smaller problem inside the larger one that must be solved first. Sometimes you need to think about the information that is missing rather than what is there. Sometimes you need to read the problem again and look for a different point of view. Sometimes you need to tell your brain to try to think about the problem in an entirely different way - perhaps a way you have never used before. Looking for different ways to solve problems is like brain-storming. Try to solve this problem. You may need to ***change your point of view*** *.*

Mrs. Gomez is planning a party. She needs seating for 26 people. She can use hexagon tables for six guests and square tables for four guests. She would like to use more hexagon tables than square tables. How many of each does she need?

MathStars Home Hints

Identifying the mathematics that is all around you can be lots of fun. Think about the geometry and spatial visualization you use in playing video games or when you play golf or basketball. When your parents parallel park, they are using their spatial skills too. When you track a hurricane, you use coordinates. When you check the stock market or read the latest sports statistics, you are using mathematics. With your family or friends go on a math scavenger hunt. Who can identify mathematics in the most unusual places?

★★ 5. Three friends went fishing. Juan caught five fish, Betty caught twice as many as Juan and Darryl caught seven. How many fish did the three friends catch?

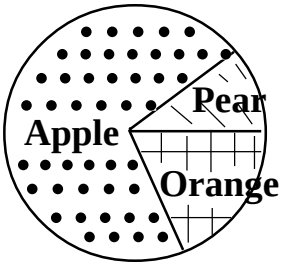


★ 6. Circle the letters that have a line of symmetry:

R D H

S W Y

★★★ 7. Mr. Allen's class made a graph to show their favorite fruit. Look at the information on the graph. Then decide whether the following statements are true or false.



a. More students like apples.
true or false

b. More students like pears than oranges.
true or false

c. More students like pears and oranges than apples. true or false

d. Over half the class prefers apples.
true or false

★★ 8. Three students bring "Show and Tell" on Monday, five students on Tuesday, seven students on Wednesday. If this pattern continues, how many students will bring "Show and Tell" on Friday?

_____

Setting Personal Goals

Students who recognize the value of mathematics are well on their way to becoming mathematically powerful citizens. Valuing mathematics means that we appreciate the richness, power, and usefulness of mathematics. Without math there would be no roads or bridges, computers or movies, banks or fast food restaurants. How can you become mathematically powerful?