

Divide or Multiply? Story Problems

- 1) Jermaine has $3\frac{1}{2}$ packs of gum. He wants to divide his gum equally between himself and 3 of his friends. How much gum would each person receive?

Jermaine and his friends would each receive $\frac{7}{8}$ of a pack.

To get this answer you had to divide $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 4.

- 3) Tachina went to the apple orchard to pick apples. She collected $2\frac{3}{5}$ bushels of apples. Her friend Quintavia collected $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the amount Tachina did. How many bushels of apples did Quintavia pick?

Quintavia picked $6\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of apples. You must multiply to solve.

- 5) Last March it rained a total of $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Seattle. During that same period in Raleigh, it rained $\frac{3}{4}$ of the amount than it did in Seattle. How much rain did Raleigh receive during March?

It rained $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches in Raleigh during March.

After reading the problem, we should understand that the answer should be smaller than $8\frac{1}{2}$.

$\frac{3}{4}$ of $8\frac{1}{2}$ means it rained part of $8\frac{1}{2}$.

The word **of** means we should multiply.

$\frac{3}{4}$ of $8\frac{1}{2}$ can be written as $\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$

- 2) Taylor's plant grew $1\frac{2}{3}$ feet tall. Her friend's plant grew 3 times bigger than hers. How tall is her friend's plant?

Her friend's plant would be 5 feet tall.

You must multiply to get your answer.

- 4) The day after Thanksgiving, Ashley and her three brothers wanted to eat what was left of the pumpkin pie. There were $2\frac{1}{2}$ pies remaining. How much would each person receive if the each person ate exactly the same amount until the pie was gone?

Each person would receive $\frac{5}{8}$ of a pie. Because you have to split the pie up equally, you must divide.

- 6) Mr. Smith owned $8\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land. He decided that he wanted to break it into 5 equal parts for each of his grandchildren. How many acres would each grandchild receive?

Each grandchild would receive $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land.

Because something is being divided up, we must divide. Remember, the object or number being broken-up must be written first in the problem. That is why the problem must be set up as $8\frac{3}{4} \div 5$