

## Math 3 Classwork 7

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New Material I
Multiplication is a way to solve problems with equal groups:
There are 4 groups of stars, 3 stars in each group. $4 \times 3 = 12$ stars altogether. Multiplication is NOT only a "shortcut" for repetitive addition.
<ul><li>We use multiplication to solve a variety of different problems. For example:</li><li>1. The blue rod is 3 times as long as red rod.</li><li>2. The truck is twice as heavy as a car</li></ul>
Solve the problems: a) The cost of each book is \$4. What is the cost of 3 books?
b) The Smith family has five members. Each member has a small towel and a bath towel. How many towels hang in the bathroom?
c) The Jones family orders four pizzas to eat. Each pizza is sliced into four parts. How many pizza slices do they get after cutting all four pizzas?
d) Alan is 8 years old. His dad is 4 times older than Alan. How old is Alan's dad?
e) A rope was cut into 8 pieces. Each piece was further cut into 5 pieces. How many pieces was a rope split into?
Write down as an algebraic expression:
a) A basket contains 5 oranges. Another basket contains x oranges. How many oranges are in both baskets?
b) Each box contains 12 pencils. How many pencils are in x such boxes?
c) Ann had eight balloons. She gave y balloons to her sister. How many balloons have left?
Compare expressions, using <, >, =:
$7 \times 5 \6 \times 8$ $12 + 12 + 12 \12 \times 4$
$3 \times 9 \_ 4 \times 9 - 9 \qquad 4 \times 6 \_ 3 \times 6 + 6$
REVIEW
Calculate and express the answer in dm and cm:
3  dm  7  cm + 4  dm  5  cm =
26  cm + 3  dm 8  cm =
7  dm  2  cm - 56  cm =





## Did you Know ...?

## Why do we use x for the Unknown in Math?

For hundreds of years, x has been the go-to symbol for the unknown quantity in mathematical equations. So, who started this practice? There are controversial historical accounts for it.

At the end of the 16th century, François Viète introduced the idea of representing known and unknown numbers by letters, nowadays called **variables**, and the idea of computing with them as if they were numbers—in order to obtain the result by a simple replacement.



In his landmark work, La Géométrie (1637), Descartes solidified the

movement to symbolic notation by instituting the convention of using the lowercase letters at the beginning of the alphabet for known quantities (e.g., a, b and c) and using those at the end of the alphabet for unknown quantities (e.g., z, y and x).

Why? And why x more than y, and z for unknowns? Nobody knows. It has been speculated that the prominence of x being used more than y and z for unknowns in this work had to do with



typesetting; one story goes that it was Descartes' printer who suggested x be the principle unknown in *La Géométrie* because it was the letter least used and so the one he had more letter blocks available to use. Whether this is true or not, Descartes used the x to be an unknown at least as early as 1629 in various manuscripts,

