3rd Grade Math: Real-World Problems — One-Step Problems

What Are One-Step Problems?

- **One-step problems** involve a situation where you only need to perform **one operation** (addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division) to find the answer.

How to Solve One-Step Problems

1. **Understand the problem**: Read carefully and find out what is being asked.
2. **Choose the operation**: Decide if you need to add, subtract, multiply, or divide.
3. **Solve the problem**: Perform the operation.
4. **Check your answer**: Make sure it makes sense in the real-world context.

Example 1: Addition (Buying Fruit)

Problem:
You bought 4 apples and 3 oranges. How many pieces of fruit did you buy in total?

Steps:

1. **Operation**: You need to **add** because the question asks for the total number of fruit.

$$4 \text{ apples} + 3 \text{ oranges} = 7 \text{ pieces of fruit}$$

Answer:
You bought 7 pieces of fruit.

Example 2: Subtraction (Money Spent)

Problem:
You have $20 and you spent $7 on a toy. How much money do you have left?

Steps:

1. **Operation**: You need to **subtract** because you are finding how much is left after spending.

$$20 - 7 = 13$$

Answer:
You have $13 left.

Example 3: Multiplication (Sharing Candies)

Problem:
You have 5 bags of candy, and each bag has 4 candies. How many candies do you have in total?

Steps:

1. **Operation**: You need to **multiply** because you are finding the total number of candies in multiple bags.

$$5 \times 4 = 20$$

Answer:
You have 20 candies.

Example 4: Division (Sharing Cookies)

Problem:
You have 12 cookies, and you want to share them equally among 3 friends. How many cookies does each friend get?

Steps:

1. **Operation**: You need to **divide** because you are splitting the cookies equally.

$$12 \div 3 = 4$$

Answer:
Each friend gets 4 cookies.

Conclusion:

- **One-step problems** are simple, real-world problems where you only need to perform one operation. Whether it's adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing, solving these problems is a great way to apply math to everyday situations!