

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can you use variables and equations to solve a problem that involves a missing number?

A: First, decide what missing number the variable will represent. Write an equation to represent the problem, using a variable and the numbers in the problem. Use your equation to solve the problem.

For example, Kelly is saving for a computer game that costs \$49. She already has \$25. The variable m can represent the amount of money she still needs.

$$25 + m = 49$$

$$25 + 24 = 49, \text{ so } m = 24$$

Kelly still needs \$24 to buy the computer game.

Q: How can you solve an equation?

A: You need to determine the value of the variable that makes the equation true.

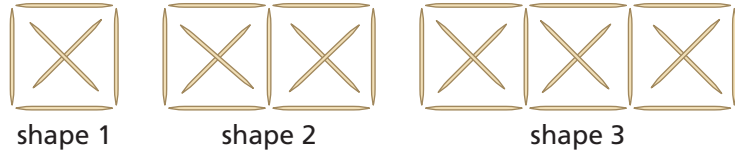
For example, to solve the equation $45 + f = 96$, you could use any of the following methods:

- Use guess and test to figure out the missing number that f represents.
- Use materials to represent the values. Count or add on to see what number must be added to 45 to reach 96.
- Subtract 45 from 96.

Practice

Lesson 1

1. Cole made this pattern with toothpicks.



- a) How many squares can he make with 31 toothpicks? Use a sketch or a model.
- b) How many toothpicks will he need to make 10 squares? Use a table.

Lesson 2

2. At the start of a game, each player had 8 tokens and 6 cards.
- a) Make a table to show the number of tokens and the number of cards for 1 to 4 players.
- b) Write pattern rules for the patterns in your table.
- c) 56 tokens were given out at the start of the game. How many people were playing the game?

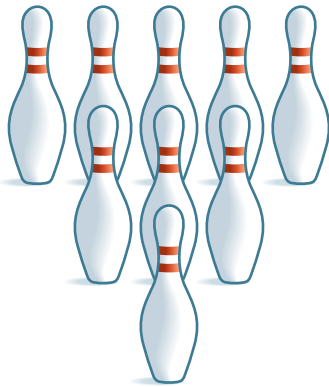
Lesson 3

3. Grace had 1750 mL of juice. She poured 250 mL for each of her friends. She created the following pattern to show how much juice she used:

1750, 1500, 1250, 1000, ...

- a) Why do the numbers in Grace's pattern decrease by 250?
- b) What is Grace's pattern rule?
- c) Grace poured all the juice. How many friends had a glass of juice?





Lesson 5

4. Jacob set up bowling pins in a triangle, with one pin in the first row, three pins in the second row, five pins in the third row, and so on.
- Extend the pattern. How many bowling pins are in the eighth row?
 - Use a pattern to show how many bowling pins there are, in total, in the eight rows. Write a number sentence to show the sum.

Lesson 6

5. Write an expression for each situation.
- 22 more than a number
 - 35 less than a number
 - 13 less than a number
 - 56 more than a number
6. A Canadian squirrel's tail is about 10 cm longer than a raccoon's tail. Write two expressions to describe how the lengths of the tails are related. Use addition in one expression and subtraction in the other expression.

Lesson 7

7. Write a problem that can be solved using each equation below. Then use the equation to solve your problem.
- $24 + h = 96$
 - $t - 12 = 33$

What Do You Think Now?

Look back at **What Do You Think?** on page 3. How have your answers and explanations changed?