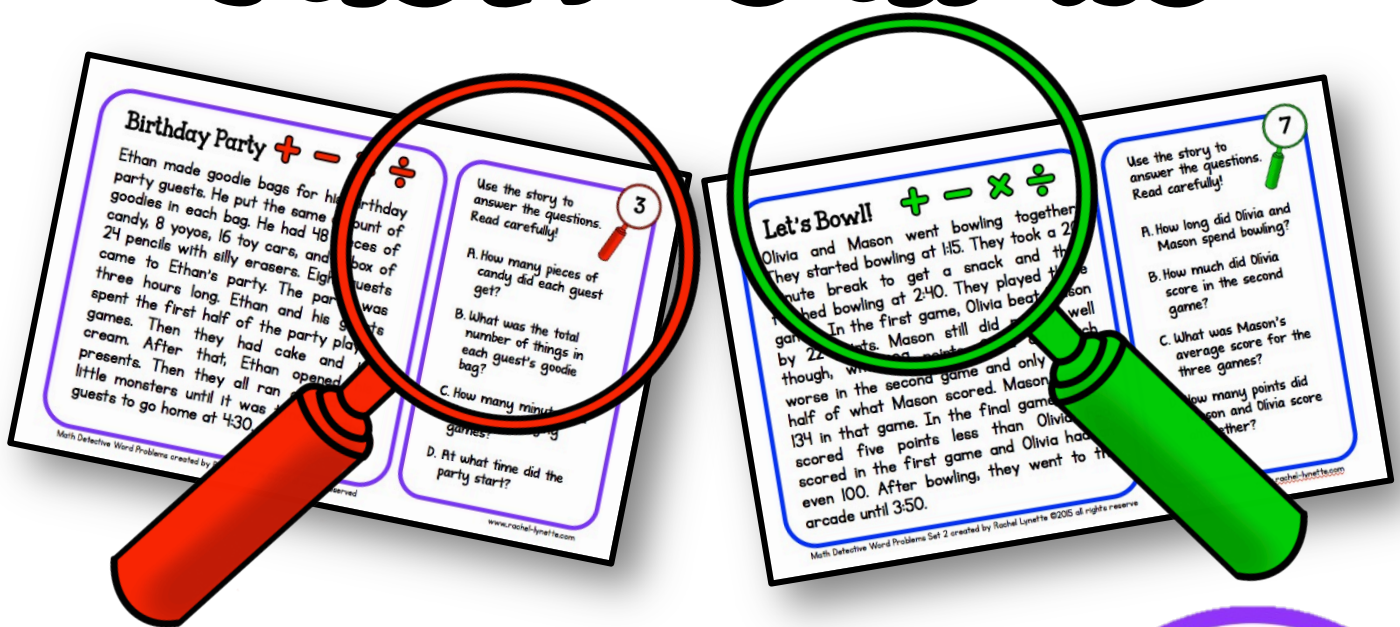


Grades 3-6

Free!

Word Problem Detective Task Cards



Requires students to read carefully to find the information they need.



Word Problem Detective Task Cards Freebie!

One big challenge students often have with math story problems is that they do not read the problem carefully enough. These longer story problems were designed to help students learn to read carefully and pick out the relevant details.

Each of these 8 half-page cards features a story with a lot of information and numbers. There are also four problems for each story. Students must read carefully to successfully select the information they need to solve each problem.

Cards 1-4 are the beginner set. Many of the problems can be solved mentally once the student has determined which information is relevant.

Cards 5-8 are advanced. The problems on these cards are all multi-step and may be fairly complicated.

Student answer sheet and answer key is also included.

Printing and Cutting:

These cards were made to be printed in color, but will print out fine in gray scale too. They should print out with even margins around the cards; however, because every printer is different, it is possible that you may need to adjust your printer settings. Selecting "actual size" or adjusting the size percentage should do the trick. Cut the cards apart using the dotted guidelines (discarding the bottom strip). Laminate if possible. Another option is to print on cardstock



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Baking Pies + - × ÷

Emily and Jacob decided to bake pies for the school bake sale. They baked six pies altogether. Two of the pies were cherry and the rest were apple. They used four and a half pounds of cherries for each of the cherry pies and 9 apples for each of the apple pies. They spent 2 hours getting the pies ready to go into the oven. The pies needed to bake for 45 minutes each. Two pies could fit in the oven at a time. When they were done, they decided to keep one of the apple pies to share with their families. They brought the rest of the pies to the bake sale the next day.

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Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

1

- A. How many pies did Emily and Jacob bring to the bake sale?
- B. How many pounds of cherries did they buy?
- C. How many apples did they buy?
- D. How long did it take to bake all of the pies?

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Garden Time + - × ÷

Keisha had a lovely little garden! She grew 3 rows of beans, 2 rows of peas, some squash, lettuce, and carrots. But Keisha had a problem: rabbits were coming into her garden and eating her vegetables. She decided to build a fence around her garden to keep the rabbits out. Her garden was 10 feet wide and 15 feet long. Keisha went to the hardware store to buy the materials for her fence. It cost \$65 for everything she needed. She paid with two fifty-dollar bills. Keisha and her family had lots of yummy vegetables to eat at harvest time!

Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

2

- A. How many different kinds of vegetables did Keisha plant?
- B. How many feet of fencing did Keisha need to buy?
- C. If Keisha's garden had been a square with sides 15 feet long, how much fencing would she have needed?
- D. How much change did Keisha get back at the hardware store?

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Birthday Party $+$ $-$ \times \div

Ethan made goodie bags for his birthday party guests. He put the same amount of goodies in each bag. He had 48 pieces of candy, 8 yoyos, 16 toy cars, and a box of 24 pencils with silly erasers. Eight guests came to Ethan's party. The party was three hours long. Ethan and his guests spent the first half of the party playing games. Then they had cake and ice cream. After that, Ethan opened his presents. Then they all ran around like little monsters until it was time for the guests to go home at 4:30.

Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

3

- How many pieces of candy did each guest get?
- What was the total number of things in each guest's goodie bag?
- How many minutes did they spend playing games?
- At what time did the party start?

Cats and Dogs $+$ $-$ \times \div

Cory's family has an adorable dog named Dobby. Cory takes Dobby for a walk every day. They also have three lazy cats named Fluffy, Mittens, and Jinks. Dobby eats a cup and a half of dog food each day. Each cat eats a fourth of a cup of cat food each day. Fluffy is twice as old as Mittens. Mittens is three years older than Jinks. Jinks is two years old. Nobody knows exactly how old Dobby is, but the people at the dog shelter thought he was probably 3 years old when they adopted him 2 years ago.

Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

4

- How much cat food do all of the cats eat in one day?
- How much cat food does Mittens eat in a week?
- How much dog food does Dobby eat in a week?
- How old is Fluffy?

Dinner Time $+$ $-$ \times \div

Everyone in Tyler's family of four takes turns cooking. They eat dinner at home every night except Saturday when they go out for pizza. In January, Tyler's first day to cook was Monday, January 5th. Tyler made lasagna. He started cooking at 4:40 and dinner was ready at 6:18. After dinner, they had cookies for dessert. Tyler ate twice as many cookies as his little sister. Tyler's mom ate a two more cookies than Tyler. Tyler's Dad ate nine cookies, which was five more than Tyler's sister had eaten. Tyler did homework until bedtime, which was at 9:30.

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5

Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

- A. On what day of the week will Tyler next cook?
- B. How many times will Tyler cook in January?
- C. How long did it take Tyler to make dinner?
- D. How many cookies did Tyler have for dessert?

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Pizza Party $+$ $-$ \times \div

The fifth graders at Clark Elementary earned a pizza party for reading 1,000 books in three months! There were three classes. Mrs. Jinn's and Mr. Winkle's classes each had 27 students. Mrs. Cote's had 28 students. Each student had two slices of pizza and 3 cookies. Each pizza was cut into twelve slices and there were 32 cookies in each package. The teachers did not eat any pizza, but they did each eat two cookies. After the party, Mrs. Jinn and Mrs. Cotes each took half of the remaining slices of pizza home and Mr. Winkle took the left over cookies.

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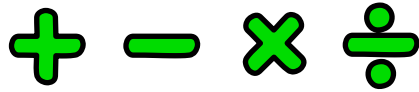
6

Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

- A. What is the average number of books each student read? Round to the nearest whole number.
- B. How many pizzas were needed for the party?
- C. How many packages of cookies were needed?
- D. How many slices of pizza did Mrs. Jinn take home?

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Let's Bowl!



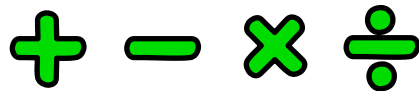
Olivia and Mason went bowling together. They started bowling at 1:15. They took a 20 minute break to get a snack and they finished bowling at 2:40. They played three games. In the first game, Olivia beat Mason by 22 points. Mason still did pretty well though, with 109 points. Olivia did much worse in the second game and only scored half of what Mason scored. Mason scored 134 in that game. In the final game Mason scored five points less than Olivia had scored in the first game and Olivia had an even 100. After bowling, they went to the arcade until 3:50.

Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

7

- How long did Olivia and Mason spend bowling?
- How much did Olivia score in the second game?
- What was Mason's average score for the three games?
- How many points did Mason and Olivia score altogether?

Garage Sale



Larkin's family had a garage sale. Her parents said that she could sell some of her old toys. Larkin decided to sell all of her stuffed animals. She sold 7 big stuffed animals for \$2.50 each and 13 small ones for \$0.75 each. Larkin took some of the money she made to a garage sale down the street. There were a lot of books at that sale. Hardbacks were \$0.50 and softbacks were just \$.025. Larkin spent \$5.75 for 17 books. She also bought a game for \$1.50 and 18 pretty marbles for a nickel each. She gave the marbles to her little sister, then they played the new game until dinnertime.

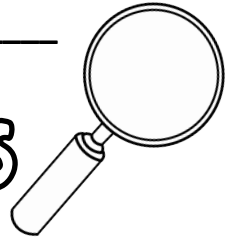
Use the story to answer the questions. Read carefully!

8

- How much money did Larkin make from selling her stuffed animals?
- How many softback books did Larkin buy?
- How much did Larkin spend at the garage sale altogether?
- How much money did Larkin have left?

Name _____

Date _____



Math Detective Word Problems

Record your answers on the lines. Use the box to explain how you got your answer.

Card Title _____

Card # _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Math Detective Word Problems Answer Key

1. Baking Pies	A. 5 pies B. 9 pounds of cherries C. 36 apples D. 2 hours 15 minutes
2. Garden Time	A. 5 kinds of vegetables B. 50 feet of fencing C. 60 feet of fencing D. \$35
3. Birthday Party	A. 6 pieces of candy B. 12 things C. 90 minutes D. 1:30
4. Cats and Dogs	A. $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cat food B. $1\frac{3}{4}$ cup cat food C. $10\frac{1}{2}$ cups dog food D. 10 years old

5. Dinner Time	A. Friday B. 6 times C. 1 hour and 38 minutes D. 8 cookies
6. Pizza Party	A. 12 books B. 14 pizzas C. 8 packages of cookies D. 2 slices
7. Let's Bow!!	A. 1 hour and 5 minutes B. 68 points C. 123 points D. 667 points
8. Garage Sale	A. \$27.25 B. 11 softback books C. \$8.15 D. \$19.10

Get more Word Problem Detective Task Cards:

Grades 3-5 18 Cards
4 problems per card

Word Problem Detective Task Cards

Requires students to read carefully to find the information they need.

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Beginner Set

Grades 4-6 18 cards, 4 multi-step
problems per card

Word Problem Detective Task Cards

★ Advanced set ★

Requires students to read carefully to find the information they need.

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Advanced Set