



ANCHOR CHART · GRADE 3 · 3.OA.D.8

Two-Step Word Problems

The class needs 120 cans for the food drive. 8 students each bring 9 cans.
How many cans does the class still need? Every panel below is this one problem.

1 Find the Hidden Question

step 1 hidden

How many cans did the 8 students bring?

$$8 \times 9 = 72$$

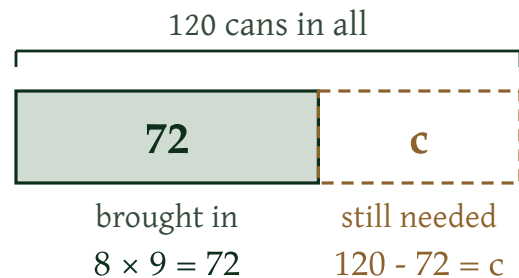
step 2 asked

How many cans does the class still need?

$$120 - 72 = 48$$

Two steps means two questions. The one they ask you sits on top of one they do not.

2 Draw Both Parts



One whole, two parts. Drawing the bar decides the operations for you, so no keyword has to.

3 Write One Equation

$$120 - 8 \times 9 = c$$

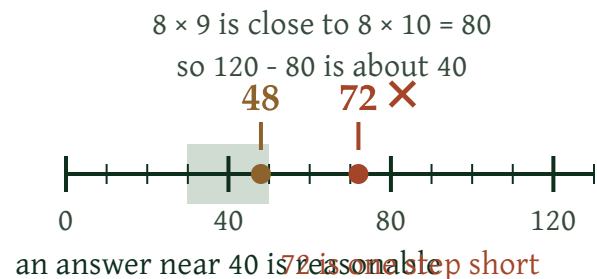
no parentheses, so the multiplying happens first

$$120 - 72 = c$$

$$c = 48 \text{ cans}$$

The letter holds the answer's place until you find it. The same problem also reads $8 \times 9 + c = 120$.

4 Check That It Is Reasonable



Rounding first tells you roughly where to land.
An answer of 72 is the first step, stopped too soon.