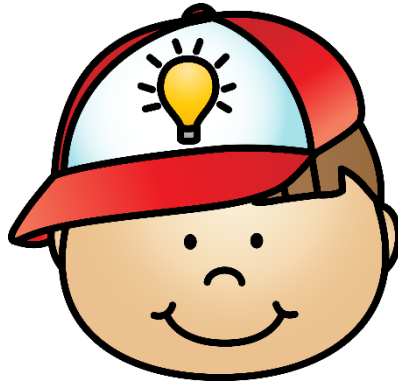


BRAIN BURNER

WORD PROBLEMS: 3.OA



These word problems are designed to allow students to use their own strategies for problem solving, regardless of how far from "typical" they might seem to you as an educator. You will be amazed at the ways students will find to get to a right answer.

There is not one right answer for any of these problems! Students will fill in the missing pieces of the problems before solving them using any strategy that makes sense in their own brains.

I generally use these as morning self starters 1 or 2 times per week. You'll want to do the first few as a group, showing examples of students who thought of different strategies, and doing a lot of talking about what you expect a final product to look like. Many students might be lost for the first several problems, but after seeing their classmates' work, they will catch on.

Students should be encouraged, if not required, to show their thought processes through pictures, graphs, charts, and/or equations. I will usually call on a few students to show their strategies and explain them to the class each time I do a brain burner, thus giving the rest of the class new ideas for problem solving.

There are two formats for you to choose from. I prefer my students to have plenty of room to work with, but I know paper conservation is also important.

I will be adding brain burners for the other third grade math standards, so check back to your "My Purchases" page every now and then for updates.

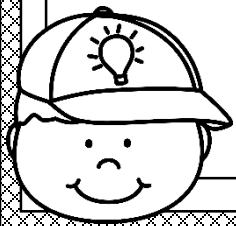
Thanks to [Whimsy Clips](#) for the clip art and [KB3Teach Fonts](#) for the fonts!

Name _____

Brain Burner

Patrick collects teddy bears. He has 36 of them. Some are black, some are white, and some are brown. How many of each color could Patrick have in his collection?

Blank area for writing the answer to the first problem.



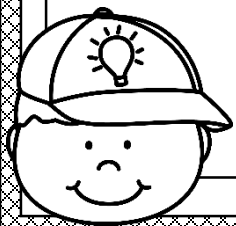
0A

Name _____

Brain Burner

There are 30 desks in Mr. White's classroom. Each desk has the same number of pencils on it. How many pencils might be in the classroom altogether?

Blank area for writing the answer to the second problem.



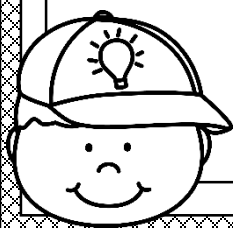
0A

Name _____

Brain Burner

Mrs. Plant has a garden with 7 rows. In each row she has planted an equal number of vegetables. How many vegetables might Mrs. Plant be growing in her garden?

Blank area for writing the answer to the first problem.



OA

Name _____

Brain Burner

Wilson has exactly \$50 to spend at the toy store. Here are the toys he can buy and their cost:

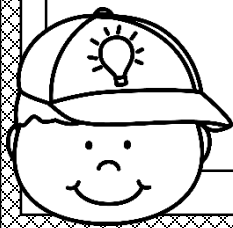
Bouncy ball = \$1.00

Toy car = \$2.00

Bubbles = \$3.00

He must buy at least one of each toy and he must spend exactly \$50. Which toys might Wilson choose to buy?

Blank area for writing the answer to the second problem.



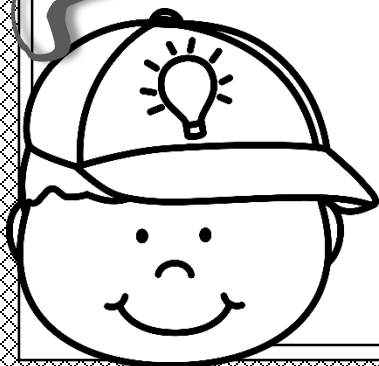
OA

Name _____

Brain Burner

Sue has 4 dogs. Altogether they weigh 276 pounds. How much might each of Sue's dogs weigh?

PREVIEW



Name _____

Brain Burner

In that neighborhood there are 7 deserted houses. Altogether they have 53 broken windows. If each house has more than 5 broken windows, how many might each deserted house have?

PREVIEW

