Word Problem Graphic Organizer

Printable Math-U-See Organizing Tool

Take the mystery out of solving word problems with this Word Problem Graphic Organizer. Use the Example page to teach how to use it, then encourage your student to use a blank Word Problem Graphic Organizer whenever they struggle with a word problem.

How to Use

1. **Print** in color:
   - Example Word Problem Graphic Organizer
   - Blank Word Problem Graphic Organizer
2. **Review** the Example Word Problem Graphic Organizer with your student, showing how each section helps determine what a word problem is asking and the suggested steps to solve it. Begin with the Main Idea in the center, then move left to right across the top, then the bottom, finishing with Solve. Note that not all word problems will require all sections of the organizer.

Example Word Problem:

Sarah's dad gave her $18 to buy snacks for her friends. If she plans to spend $4 on a carton of milk, how many snack bags will she be able to buy if the store sells them for $2 each?

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3. Using the Practice word problem below, have your student fill in the 5 sections of a blank Word Problem Graphic Organizer. (If you prefer, use a different word problem of your choice.)

Practice Word Problem:

Sarah's dad gave her $18 to buy snacks for her friends. If she plans to spend $4 on a carton of milk, how many snack bags will she be able to buy if the store sells them for $2 each?

Practice Word Problem Answer:

$18 - $4 = $14
$14 ÷ $2 per snack bag = 7 bags of snacks
Sarah can by 7 snack bags

Focus • What do I know? • Do I need a formula?

- Do I need more information or tools (ex. a ruler) to help me?
- *I know she has $18.*
- *Each snack bag costs $2 each.*
- *She will spend $4 on milk.*

Brainstorm • What strategies could I use to solve this problem?

- What operations could I use?
- *draw a picture*
- *subtraction and division*

Main Idea • What do I need to find?

- What information do I need to know to answer this question?
- *I need to find how many bags of snacks she can buy.*
- *I need to know how much each snack bag costs ($2).*
- *I need to know how much money she has to spend on snacks.*

Relate

- How does the problem relate to me?
- What steps do I need to follow to solve the problem?
- *I need to figure out how much money she has left after she buys the milk.*
- *Then I need to see how many bags of snacks she can buy with that amount of money.*

Solve

- Try one or more of my ideas.
- Is my answer reasonable?

$4 for milk



7 bags of snacks ($2 each)

- *$18 - $4 = $14*
- *$14 ÷ $2 per snack bag = 7 bags of snacks*

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