



**MOUNT PLEASANT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 1117  
MOUNT PLEASANT, TEXAS 75456-1117  
(903) 575-2000**

March 23, 2020

Mount Pleasant ISD Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to meet the requirements provided by The Texas Education Agency for our students to continue to receive instruction during this closure, we have worked to provide two ways that students can continue to learn in lieu of in-person instruction.

We will provide paper-packets of student work that will be available for parents by one of the following ways:

- Access the packets online at [www.mpisd.net](http://www.mpisd.net) and return them by any way available electronically to your child's teacher (email, screenshot, app, text, etc.). Additional resources for parents and students to communicate remotely will also be posted on our district's site as well.
- A pick-up process (more information to come on this soon)

We will also provide online/remote instruction by using many resources. Any ways in which your child's teachers have been utilizing technology, providing instruction, and communicating with students will continue. In addition to this, links and resources for online learning and instruction will be posted beginning Monday, March 30 at [www.mpisd.net](http://www.mpisd.net). On March 30, there will also be a tech help-desk phone number available for parents and students who need assistance with accessing remote instruction.

Your child's continued learning is our priority. Thank you for being understanding and flexible as changes continue to occur and for giving us the opportunity to educate your child in Mount Pleasant ISD!

Sincerely,  
Mike Lide  
Deputy Superintendent-Curriculum & Instruction  
Mount Pleasant ISD



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23 de marzo del 2020

Padres y Tutores del Distrito Independiente Mount Pleasant,

La Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA siglas en inglés) requiere que los estudiantes continúen recibiendo instrucción cuando hay un cierre de la escuela. Para cumplir con este requisito, hemos desarrollado dos formas que reemplazarán la instrucción directa entre los maestros y los estudiantes.

Proveeremos un paquete con prácticas para cada estudiante que será disponible a los padres de las siguientes maneras:

- Acceder la información en línea en [www.mpisd.net](http://www.mpisd.net) y regresarla por cualquier medio disponible electrónicamente (correo electrónico, captura de pantalla, aplicación, etc.). Se publicarán recursos adicionales en nuestro sitio web para que los padres y los estudiantes puedan comunicarse a distancia con el distrito.
- Recoger las asignaciones en persona. Enviaremos más información de cómo se llevará a cabo este proceso.

El Distrito proveerá instrucción remota utilizando diferentes medios. Las maestras continuarán usando cualquier método de tecnología que han usado durante el año escolar para comunicarse con ustedes y los estudiantes. Adicionalmente, publicaremos enlaces para educación en línea y un número de teléfono si necesita ayuda técnica en [www.mpisd.net](http://www.mpisd.net) comenzando el lunes, 30 de marzo del 2020.

El aprendizaje continuo de su hijo(a) es nuestra prioridad. ¡Gracias por ser comprensivos y flexibles durante estos cambios y por darnos la oportunidad de educar a su hijo(a) en el Distrito Escolar Mount Pleasant!

Sinceramente,  
Mike Lide  
Superintendente Adjunto-Currículo e Instrucción  
Mount Pleasant ISD

# The Beekeeper

A Reading A-Z Level O Leveled Book

Word Count: 1,212

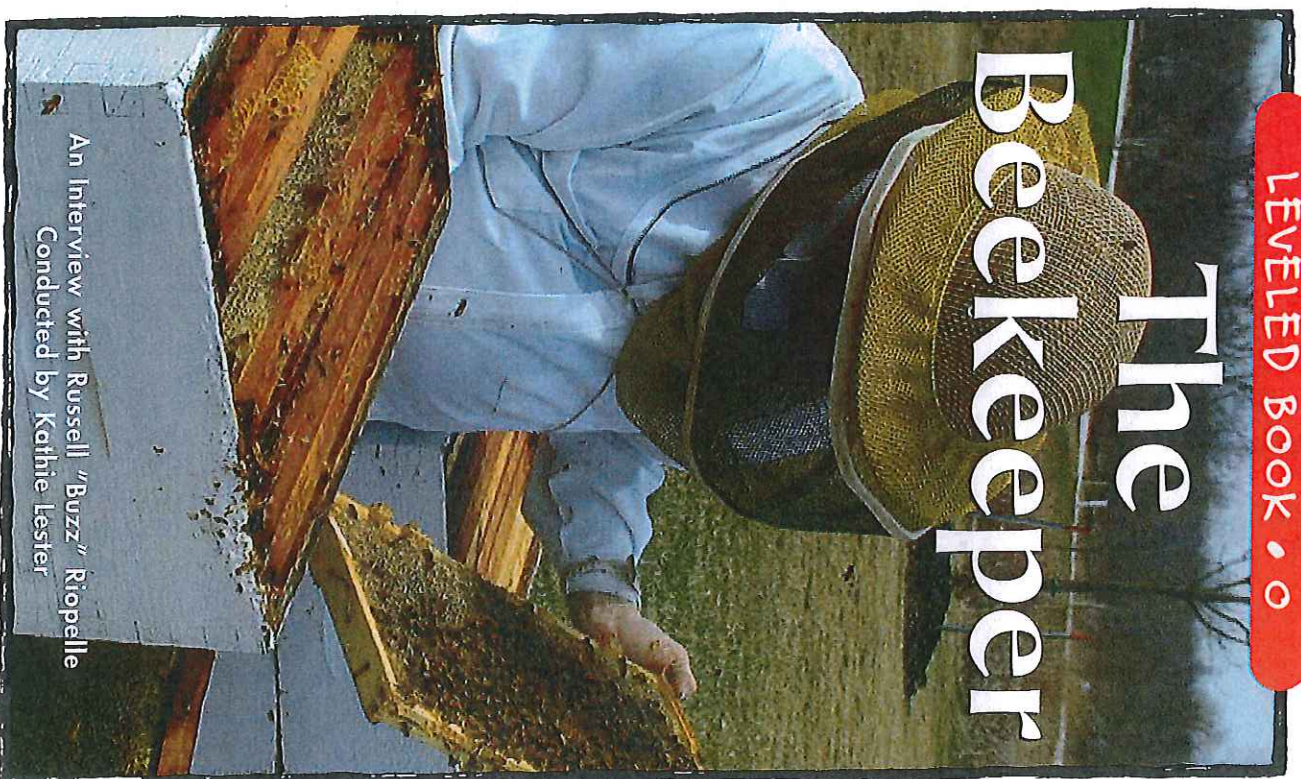


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LEVELED BOOK • O

# The Beekeeper



An Interview with Russell "Buzz" Riopelle  
Conducted by Kathie Lester

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

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#### Correlation

LEVEL O	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28



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Russell “Buzz” Riopelle is a beekeeper in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. He has been keeping bees for 30 years.

### The Work of a Beekeeper

**Interviewer:** Did you get the name “Buzz” because you keep bees?

**Buzz:** No, my parents started calling me Buzz before I was born.

**Interviewer:** How much work is involved in beekeeping?

**Buzz:** There's a lot of work, and it has to be done at the correct time. A one- or two-week delay can affect your honey crop drastically. You have to make sure the queen is laying eggs. You have to look at your bees every two to three weeks to make sure everything is all right. Removing the honey is a lot of heavy work. I have to lift the honeycomb out of the hives and put it on the truck. Then I carry it into the honey house, where I extract the honey.



Buzz's truck carries honey boxes and a bee blower. The blower blows the bees out of the boxes. Each box holds 35 to 45 pounds (16–20 kg) of honey.

**Interviewer:** What kind of equipment do you need?

**Buzz:** I wear a bee suit to keep my clothes clean. I also wear a veil over my head to protect my eyes and head from stings. I use a smoker to calm the bees. That's a small can with a bellows on it. I build a little fire in there and put the lid on. When you blow smoke on bees, they think it's a forest fire. They fill their



stomachs with honey in case they have to leave their tree. That's why smoke seems to calm them, because it keeps them busy.

Buzz pours smoke over an open hive.

Even after Buzz calms the bees with smoke, they may still sting his bare hands as he moves the boxes.



**Interviewer:**  
**How often do you get stung?**

**Buzz:** I get stung a couple thousand times a year because I don't wear gloves. Gloves are bulky and hard to keep clean, so they can spread disease. I don't swell up from stings anymore, but they still hurt. I work the bees on nice sunny days around two o'clock in the afternoon when all the flowers are producing nectar. When half the bees are out collecting nectar, I only have to deal with the other half.

## Life in the Hive

**Interviewer:** Tell me about the kinds of bees.

**Buzz:** There are queens, drones, and workers. The queens and workers are female, and the drones are male.



All the bees in the hive come from eggs laid by the queen. In the springtime



she lays 1,500 to 2,000 eggs a day. Drones are only useful for mating. They don't work at all.

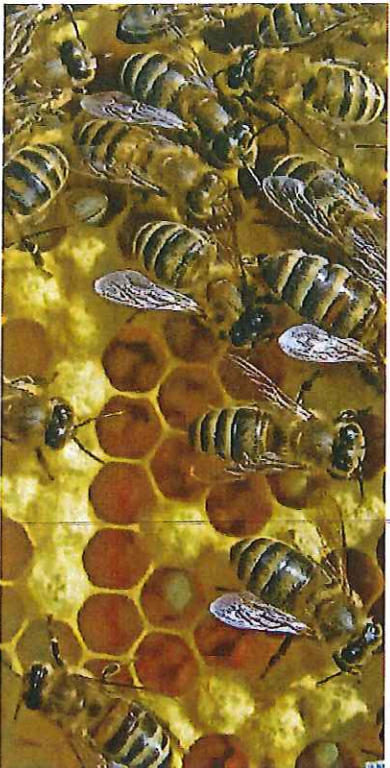
Every day they **congregate** outside the hive, waiting for a queen to fly by. Then they race after her and mate with her.



Top to bottom: A worker, a drone, and a Queen honeybee

**Interviewer:** I thought the queen never left the hive. She flies around?

**Buzz:** She makes short flights to mate. Other than that, she only leaves to swarm. If a second queen develops in the hive, the colony divides. The new queen stays in the old location. The old queen and half the bees find a new place to live. They fill their stomachs with two or three days' supply of honey. They find another place to build a honeycomb. Then they store the honey in this new comb and start laying eggs.



Honeycomb with eggs in the cells. The eggs look like tiny grains of rice standing on end.



### Do You Know?

Bees make beeswax from glands on their bellies. They scrape thin sheets of wax off their bellies with their legs. Then they form the wax into the six-sided cells of the honeycomb. People use beeswax to make candles, lip gloss, moisturizer, and decorations. Even the seals underneath your toilet that keep it from leaking are made of beeswax. For health reasons, people eat pollen and "royal jelly," a special food that bees make for the queen. Honey is also used in many health and beauty products.



**Interviewer:** How long do bees live?

**Buzz:** Queens can live two to three years. In the summertime, drones and workers live for only four to six weeks because their wings wear out. In the winter they live longer because they don't fly. In the wintertime, they eat honey and shiver to generate heat. When it's 5 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit; -20° C) outside, it's 95 degrees (Fahrenheit; 35° C) in the center of the beehive. This keeps the colony alive during the winter.



A honeybee queen (the larger bee in the center) is surrounded by workers that feed, clean, and take care of her.

**Interviewer:** How many bees live in a hive?

**Buzz:** In the summertime, there can be 60,000 to 80,000.

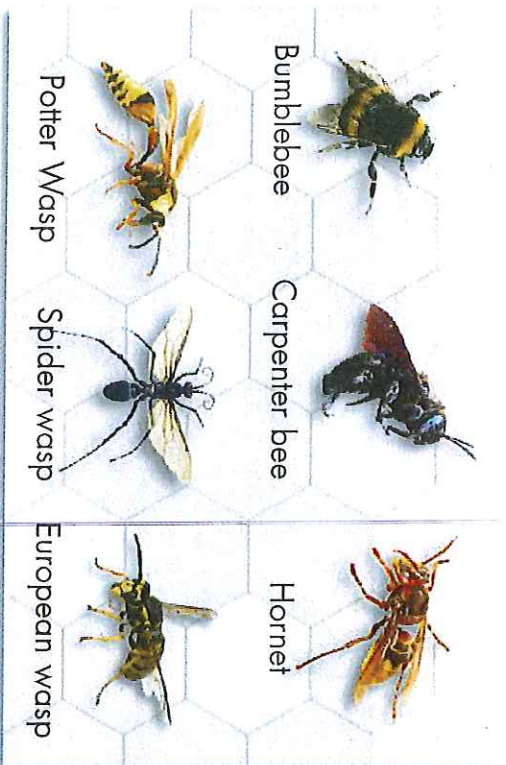
**Interviewer:** How do bees find their way back to the hive?

**Buzz:** When they leave the hive, they notice where the sun is in the sky. When they come back, they use the sun to find their way. On cloudy or rainy



days, bees don't fly because they can't see the sun.

This beehive is a large box with a row of frames inside. The bees build honeycombs on the frames. The honeycomb is where bees lay eggs, raise their young, and store pollen and honey.



## Types of Bees

**Interviewer:** Are there different kinds of honeybees?

**Buzz:** There are different kinds of bees from different places. Caucasian bees come from the Caucasus Mountains in Europe. Italian bees come from Italy, and there are bees from Africa. These are all honeybees. America actually has no native honeybees. The Pilgrims and settlers brought bees from Europe on their ships. Then those bees flew all over the United States and built hives.

**Interviewer:** What's the difference between honeybees and "killer bees"?

**Buzz:** There is no difference, other than where they come from. They produce honey just like regular bees. A scientist from South America bred bees from Africa with South American bees. But the Africanized bees he created are easily riled up. Hundreds or thousands of bees will attack one animal or person.

The Africanized bees, which some people call "killer bees," come into a beehive, kick out the bees that live there, and take over. You can come back next week, open your beehive, and suddenly get lots of stings. The bees move in that quickly. People have been trying to get rid of them for thirty years. But Africanized bees and honeybees do the same job.

## Do You Know?

Both queen and worker bees have stingers. A worker bee's stinger has a hook on the end.

When a worker bee stings, the stinger pulls out some of its insides.

This kills the bee, so a bee will only sting when its life, or the hive, is at risk. The queen bee has a smooth stinger, so she can sting over and over.

Some people are allergic to bee stings. Their throats can swell up and cause breathing problems. People who are allergic to stings must carry a special medicine with them to stop a reaction before it gets too bad.



A bee can push its hooked stinger into skin.



When the stinger sticks, it pulls out part of the bee's insides.



The bee leaves a venom sac that causes the sting to hurt.



A bee collects pollen and nectar from flowers.

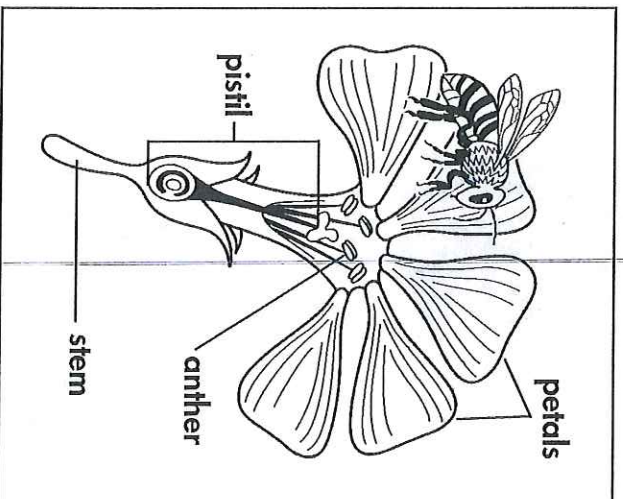
## Making Honey

**Interviewer:** Do bees use pollen to make honey?

**Buzz:** No, they make honey from nectar, the liquid they collect from flowers. The bee goes to the flower and eats the nectar, putting it into her honey stomach. She flies back to the beehive, spits the nectar out, and other bees store it in the comb. Then bees fan their wings to evaporate water from the nectar and make it thicker.

But the biggest purpose of bees in this country is not to make honey. Their purpose is to pollinate crops like alfalfa, an important animal feed, and melons and almonds. Inside every flower, an **anther** produces **pollen**. This is a powder that contains the male cells of the plant. There is also a **pistil**, which produces seeds when pollen from another flower brushes on it. When a bee goes into a flower to get nectar, pollen from the anther rubs onto the bee. When she goes to the next flower, the pollen rubs onto the pistil.

The parts  
of a flower



Honey comes in many delicious flavors, depending on which flower the nectar came from.

Different flowers have different flavors of nectar. Orange-blossom honey tastes different from apple-blossom honey. People

with orchards don't have time to keep bees, so they rent bees from me. I take my bees into their orchard at night and leave them for a week or two. After the flowers have fallen off the trees, I take the bees home. When I take my bees to an apple orchard, I get apple-blossom honey. If I took them to an orange orchard, I'd get orange-blossom honey.

**Interviewer:** How much honey do you get from one beehive?

**Buzz:** Between 60 and 350 pounds (27–159 kg.) of honey a year, depending on the location and how hardworking the bees are. Bees are like people. Some people get up early and work.



A frame of honeycomb. The honey is on the outside. The light circle contains eggs whose cells are capped to protect them until they hatch. The very center contains pollen.

**Interviewer:** How do you get the honey out of the comb?

**Buzz:** A wax cap seals the honeycomb. I have to cut off the capping and then put the frame into a machine that spins around. This makes the honey fly out of the cells. I give the comb back to the bees, and they fill it up again. After the honey comes out, I heat it to thin it. Then I filter out the wax and put the honey in jars.



Buzz's honey house has a heating tank (lower right-hand corner) and a tube that pumps the honey through a filter bag (center) and into a bucket.



This bee is covered in pollen. She will spread the pollen to other flowers, producing seeds.

### Do You Know?

Honey never spoils. Bacteria don't grow in it because it has too much acid. The acid is antibacterial. Putting honey on a burn or a wound will help prevent infection and help the wound heal faster.

## Glossary

- anther** (*n.*) the male part of a flower that produces pollen (p. 17)
- bellows** (*n.*) a pump that blows air (p. 6)
- cells** (*n.*) the six-sided cups that form a honeycomb (p. 9)
- congregate** (*v.*) to gather together (p. 8)
- extract** (*v.*) to take out (p. 5)
- honeycomb** (*n.*) layers of cells that form a beehive (p. 5)
- native** (*adj.*) belonging to a specific place or country by birth (p. 13)
- pistil** (*n.*) the female part of the flower that produces seeds (p. 17)
- pollen** (*n.*) male flower cells that often look like yellow dust (p. 12)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. The author's purpose for writing this book was to give information about beekeeping. Which of the following is an informative sentence?
  - (A) The main purpose of bees is to pollinate crops.
  - (B) How many eggs does a queen bee lay?
  - (C) Everyone should have their own honeybee hive.
  - (D) All of the above
2. What do the bees do to make the nectar in the comb thicker?
  - (A) They fan their wings.
  - (B) They keep still.
  - (C) They add more nectar.
  - (D) They leave the hive.
3. What does a bee do after she has eaten the nectar?
  - (A) She dies.
  - (B) She flies back to the hive.
  - (C) She fans it with her wings.
  - (D) She spits it out.
4. To **congregate** means to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) gather together
  - (B) make honey
  - (C) eat nectar
  - (D) fly away
5. What is the main idea of the section titled "Life in the Hive"?
  - (A) There are different kinds of bees, each with a different role in the hive.
  - (B) Bees congregate outside the hive.
  - (C) Bees don't fly on cloudy days.
  - (D) Queens and worker bees are female.
6. How are regular bees and Africanised bees alike?
  - (A) They come from Africa.
  - (B) They come from South America.
  - (C) They make honey.
  - (D) It is easy to make them angry.

*Quick Check continued on following page*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which of the sentences below states an opinion?
- (A) Bees make honey from nectar.
  - (B) Orange-blossom honey tastes good.
  - (C) Queen bees can live two to three years.
  - (D) Drone bees are male.
8. Why might "Buzz" be a perfect name for the beekeeper?
- (A) It is easy to spell.
  - (B) It is the same as the name for the sound a bee makes.
  - (C) All beekeepers are named Buzz.
  - (D) None of the above
9. What happens after a second queen develops in a hive?
- (A) The two queens share the hive.
  - (B) The old queen tries to kill her.
  - (C) The drones make the new queen leave.
  - (D) The old queen leaves with half the bees.
10. Why do drones and worker bees live for a shorter time in the summer?
- (A) The heat in summer is hard on them.
  - (B) Their wings wear out from flying so much.
  - (C) They get tired from making so much honey.
  - (D) The queen leaves the hive, so the rest of the bees die.
11. **Extended Response:** What are the dangers involved in beekeeping?





1 The table shows the prices of small, medium, and large pizzas at a restaurant.

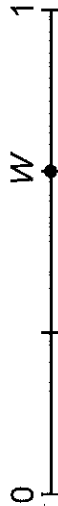
Small	\$9
Medium	\$13
Large	\$19

If Mrs. Galbraith buys 3 large pizzas and 1 medium pizza, how many dollars will she pay?

0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9

4K

4 Fractions  $W$  and  $X$  are represented on the number lines below.



Which statement is true?

- F The numerator of each fraction is 2.
- G The numerator of fraction  $W$  is 2 and the numerator of fraction  $X$  is 8.
- H The denominator of each fraction is 3.
- J The denominator of fraction  $W$  is 3 and the denominator of fraction  $X$  is 6.

5 Monica wrote a 5-digit number then circled a digit as shown below.

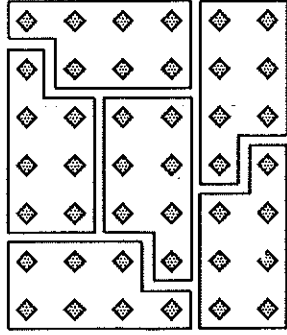
1 2,3,3,5

Which other digit in the number has a value that is exactly 10 times the value of the circled digit?

- A 1
- B 2
- C 3
- D 5

2B MathWarm-Ups.com

2 Wallace drew the model below to help him solve a math problem.

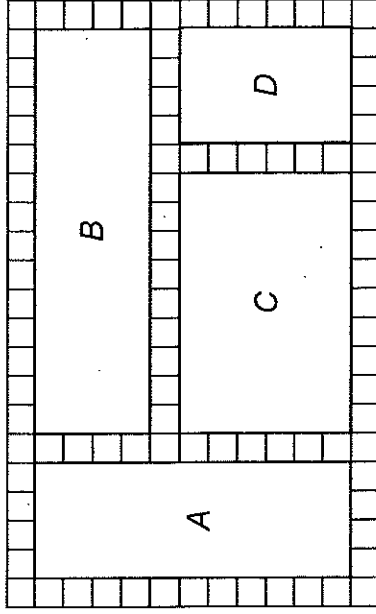


Which number sentence does the model represent?

- F  $6 + 7 = 13$
- G  $49 \div 7 = 7$
- H  $7 \times 6 = 49$
- J  $42 \div 6 = 7$

5B

3 Look at rectangles A, B, C, and D on the grid below.



Which rectangle has an area of 56 square units?

- A A
- B B
- C C
- D D

6C

7 Angie used all of the coins shown below to pay for a smoothie.



How much did the smoothie cost?

- A \$2.40
- B \$2.32
- C \$2.50
- D \$1.67

7D

6 Ernesto stood on a scale in the nurse's office at his school. The scale indicated the number 72. The 72 indicated by the scale likely represented —

- F 72 liters
- G 72 pounds
- H 72 quarts
- J 72 fluid ounces

2B

MathWarm-Ups.com

1 Nathaniel represented fraction  $N$  on the number line below.

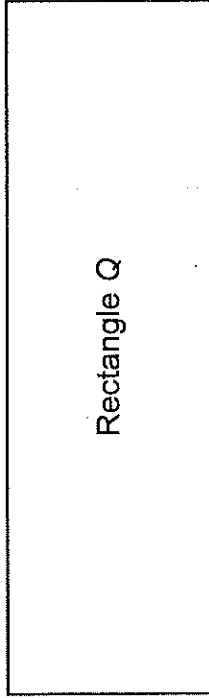
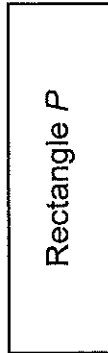


Which shows another way to represent Nathaniel's fraction?

- A + + +
- B + +
- C + +
- D + + +

3D

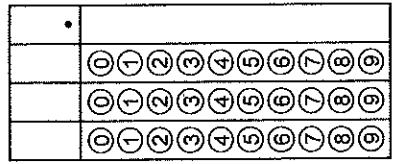
4 Rectangle  $Q$  is 2 times as long and 2 times as wide as rectangle  $P$ .



What is the area of rectangle  $Q$  in square centimeters? F 52 G 60 H 104 J 120

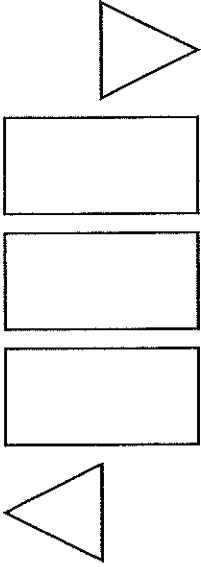
6C

5 Trinity had \$136 in her bank account and \$39 in her wallet. After her uncle gave her some more money, Trinity had \$305 total. In dollars, how much money did Trinity receive from her uncle?



4A

2 Makayla will tape off these paper pieces together to make a 3-dimensional figure.



Which figure will she make?

- F Rectangular prism
- G Rectangular pyramid
- H Triangular prism
- J Triangular pyramid

6A

3 Xavier wants to divide 64 stamps into 8 equal groups. The box in the equation below represents the number of stamps that will be in each group.

$$64 \div 8 = \square$$

Which number sentence can help Xavier find the number that goes in the box?

- A  $64 - 8 = 56$
- B  $8 \times 8 = 64$
- C  $4 \times 16 = 64$
- D  $56 + 8 = 64$

4J

7 A scientist measured the weights of two rats in a laboratory. The table below shows their weights.

Rat X	$\frac{1}{8}$ pound
Rat Y	$\frac{1}{6}$ pound

The scientist concludes that rat Y is heavier than rat X. Which model justifies the scientist's conclusion?

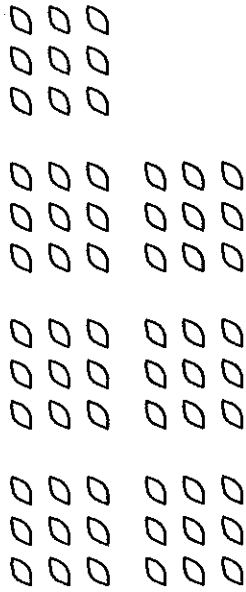
A

B

C

D

1 Sergio separated some seeds into equal groups as shown below.



What is the total number of seeds?

- A 54    B 36    C 63    D 42

4D

3 Molly baked 24 muffins then split them into 4 groups. She gave 1 group to Gail. The shaded part of which model represents the number of muffins Molly had left?

- A 

24
----
- B 

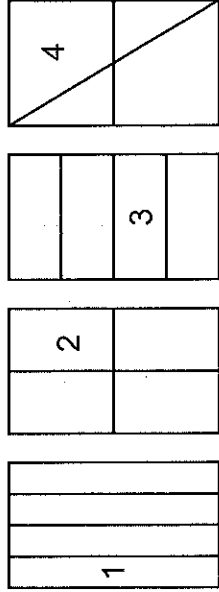
24
----
- C 

24
----
- D 

24
----

5B

2 Four rectangles are divided into 4 parts as shown below.



The area of part 1 is equivalent to the area of which other part or parts?

- F 2 only    H 3 or 4  
G 2 or 3    J 4 only

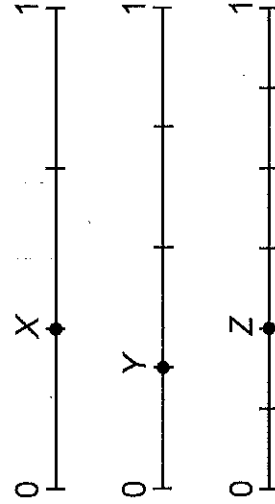
6E

4 In which equation does the  $\Delta$  equal 8?

- F  $\Delta \times 4 = 36$     H  $6 \times \Delta = 42$   
G  $4 \times \Delta = 32$     J  $4 \times 4 = \Delta$

5D

5 Models of fractions X, Y, and Z are shown below.



Which statement is true?

- A Fractions X and Z are equivalent.  
B All three fractions are equivalent.  
C Fractions Y and Z are equivalent.  
D No two fractions are equivalent.

3F

6 Read the statements below.

- Mr. Strauss and Ms. Klein recycled 35 cans together last month
- Mr. Wáng recycled 10 more cans than Ms. Klein last month

Which frequency table does NOT represent this information?

F Cans Recycled Last Month

Mr. Strauss	
Ms. Klein	
Mr. Wáng	

G Cans Recycled Last Month

Mr. Strauss	
Ms. Klein	
Mr. Wáng	

H Cans Recycled Last Month

Mr. Strauss	
Ms. Klein	
Mr. Wáng	

J Cans Recycled Last Month

Mr. Strauss	
Ms. Klein	
Mr. Wáng	