



# What's the question if you know the answer?

In "What's the question if you know the answer?" kind of tasks pupils are presented with the context and data of a problem but with the question/s missing. They are given a solution and asked to write a question that matches it. Such tasks provide an opportunity for pupils to engage in critical thinking skills. Whole class discussion must precede individuals working on the task as it is important for pupils to recognize that there may be several questions that have the same answer.

## EXAMPLE 1

Red & white chalk

Mr Lee had 3 boxes of red chalk and 8 boxes of white chalk.  
Each box contained 5 pieces of chalk.

1. What's the question if the answer is 40 ?

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2. What's the question if the answer is 15 ?

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3. What's the question if the answer is 11 ?

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4. What's the question if the answer is 3 : 8 ?

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**EXAMPLE 2**

## Eggs sold by Mr Ali

The table shows the number of eggs sold by Mr Ali on each day.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Number of eggs sold	135	150	110	185

1. What's the question if the answer is Wednesday ?

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2. What's the question if the answer is 580 ?

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3. What's the question if the answer is 75 ?

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4. What's the question if the answer is 145 ?

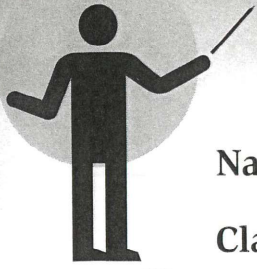
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**Teaching Goal**

After participating in this lesson, pupils should be able to generate questions that match specific given answers based on the given data in each problem. Pupils have to reason and work backward from a specific answer and generate a question or questions that match the answer.

**Teaching Plan**

1. Present the problem to the pupils.
2. Have pupils read the problem individually.
3. Engage the whole class in a discussion and check for comprehension of the data in the problem.
4. If necessary, do a quick review of the basic concepts that may be applicable to the data in the problem.
5. In pairs, ask pupils to generate the questions.
6. Ask pupils to present their questions.
7. Encourage peer evaluation and check for validity of the questions.
8. Ask pupils to verify that the answers to the questions are indeed the answers given in the probes.



# What's the question if you know the answer?



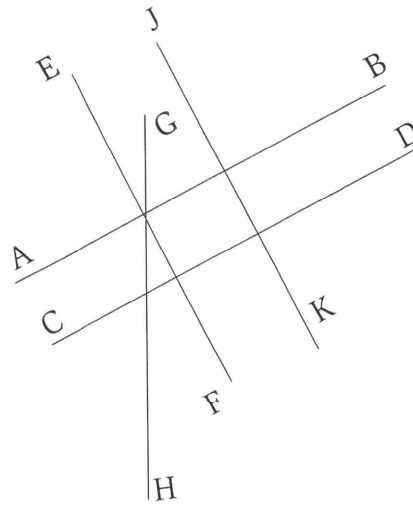
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Class : \_\_\_\_\_ Levels 3 - 6

1

Topic: Geometry

Lines



1. What's the question if the answer is AB?

\_\_\_\_\_

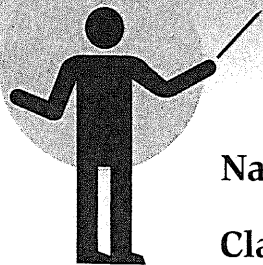
2. What's the question if the answer is JK?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What's the question if the answer is GH?

\_\_\_\_\_

Created by Pearly Tan



# What's the question if you know the answer?



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

Class : \_\_\_\_\_ Levels 4 - 6

2

Topic: Whole Numbers - Word Problems

Cushion covers & cloth

Madam Lee has a bale of cloth measuring 150 m in her shop.

A customer asked her to sew 10 cushion covers, each requiring 3 m of cloth.

Another customer bought 21 m of the same cloth.

1. What's the question if the answer is 99 m?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What's the question if the answer is 30 m?

\_\_\_\_\_

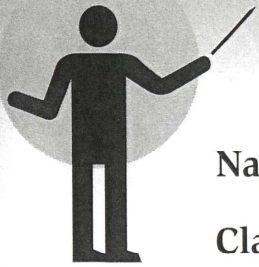
3. What's the question if the answer is 33 more cushion covers?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What's the question if the answer is  $\frac{1}{5}$  ?

\_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from : My Pals Are Here (Workbook 4A, Q5, p53)  
by Tan Sek Joo



# What's the question if you know the answer?



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

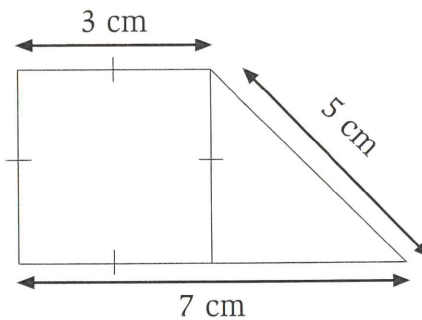
Class : \_\_\_\_\_ Levels 4 - 6

3

Topic: Area and Perimeter

Trapezium

The following trapezium is formed by a square and a triangle.



1. What's the question if the answer is 18?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What's the question if the answer is 9?

\_\_\_\_\_

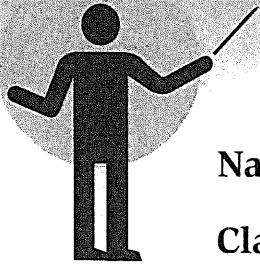
3. What's the question if the answer is 10?

\_\_\_\_\_

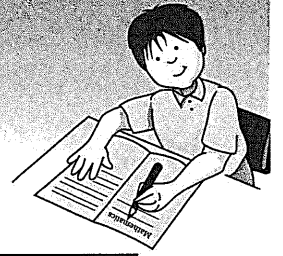
4. What's the question if the answer is 19?

\_\_\_\_\_

Created by Teo Yuen Cheng



# What's the question if you know the answer?



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

Class : \_\_\_\_\_ Levels 5 - 6

4

Topic: Ratio

Swimming school

The table shows the number of children at a swimming school for the first 3 months of the year.

Month	Boys	Girls
Jan	45	45
Feb	18	47
Mar	59	31

1. What's the question if the answer is 1 : 1?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What's the question if the answer is 122?

\_\_\_\_\_

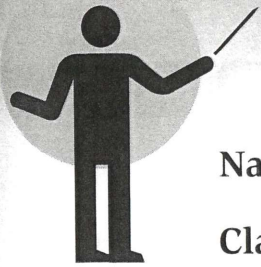
3. What's the question if the answer is 123?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What's the question if the answer is 28?

\_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from : SAP PSLE Exam Question 2002 - 2006  
by Teo Yuen Cheng



# What's the question if you know the answer?



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

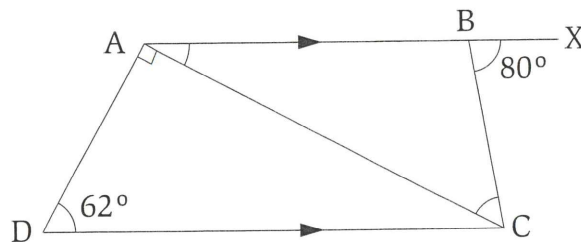
Class : \_\_\_\_\_ Levels 5 - 6

5

Topic: Angles

Missing angles

ABCD is a trapezium. ABX is a straight line.



1. What's the question if the answer is  $28^\circ$ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What's the question if the answer is  $80^\circ$ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What's the question if the answer is  $100^\circ$ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What's the question if the answer is  $52^\circ$ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from : In Step Maths (Workbook 5B Part 2, Q4, p28)  
by Lim Siew Choo & Carmen Fernando