GCF/LCM PROBLEM SOLVING

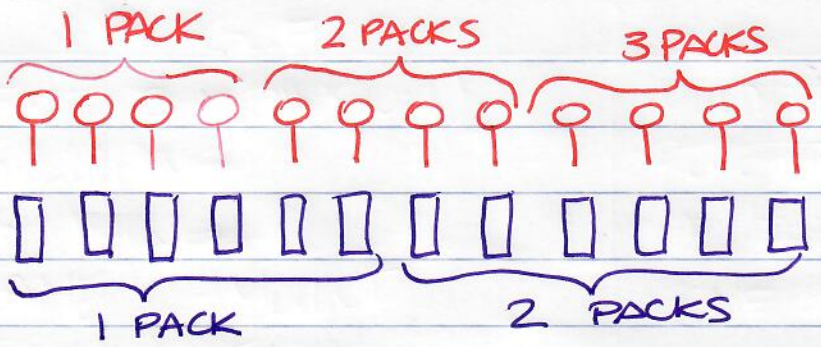
TIP #1 - LOOK FOR KEY WORDS/CONCEPTS

GCF	LCM
FACTORS (DIVISION)	MULTIPLE (MULTIPLY)
GROUPING	REPETITION
SHARING	AT THE SAME TIME
SAME AMOUNT	SAME/BOTH
EQUALLY/EACH	SMALLEST
GREATEST	MINIMUM
MOST	LEAST
MAXIMUM	FEWEST
LARGEST	FIRST

TIP #2 - DRAW A PICTURE TO VISUALIZE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS ASKING

Example 1:

Johnny is making goodie bags that include a lollipop and bubbles. If the lollipops come 4 to a pack, and the bubbles come 6 to a pack, what is the smallest number of bags that he can make and not have anything left over? How many packs of lollipops and bubbles should he buy?



SOLUTION

JOHNNY CAN MAKE 12 BAGS WITH NO ITEMS LEFT OVER. HE WILL NEED 3 PACKS OF LOLLYPOPS AND 2 PACKS OF BUBBLES.

Example 2:

Shannon is making identical balloon arrangements for a party. She has 24 white balloons and 16 blue balloons. She wants each arrangement to have the same number of each color. What is the greatest number of arrangements that she can make if every balloon is used?

2	24	16
2	12	8
2	6	4
	3	2

GCF IS ON THE LEFT!
$2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$

SOLUTION

SHANNON CAN MAKE 8 ARRANGEMENTS.

WWWBB WWWBB WWWBB WWWBB

WWWBB WWWBB WWWBB WWWBB

EACH ARRANGEMENT WILL HAVE 3 WHITE AND 2 BLUE BALLOONS.