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Examples of Strategies

Drawing a Diagram

Drawing a diagram or picture can help you “see” a problem more clearly. Diagrams and pictures help you keep track of information in problems that take more than one step to solve. When drawing one, make sure all elements of the problem are included.

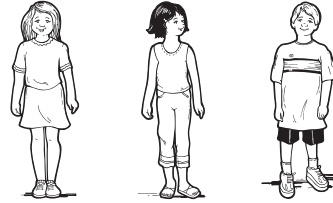
Example 1

What’s the Problem?

Three classmates were standing in a line. Sabrina is in between Charlie and Chelsea. Chelsea is first.

What is the order of the classmates?

Work It Out



Chelsea Sabrina Charlie

Write About It

To solve the problem, a student might draw a picture of the classmates, using the order given in the problem. The student would then answer the question by recording the order of the classmates.

Drawing a diagram or picture can help show directions.

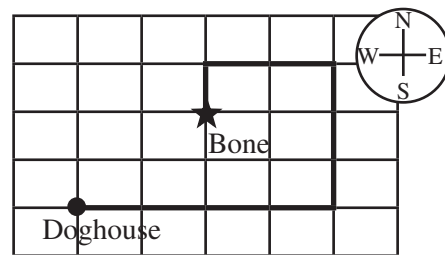
Example 2

What’s the Problem?

Fido wanted to bury his favorite dog bone in a safe spot. He left his doghouse and walked 4 feet east, 3 feet north, 2 feet west, and 1 foot south.

How many feet did Fido walk?

Work It Out



Each square = 1 foot

Write About It

To solve the problem, a student might draw a grid, where each square equals 1 foot. The student would then follow Fido’s route and calculate the number of feet walked to answer the question.



What's the Problem?

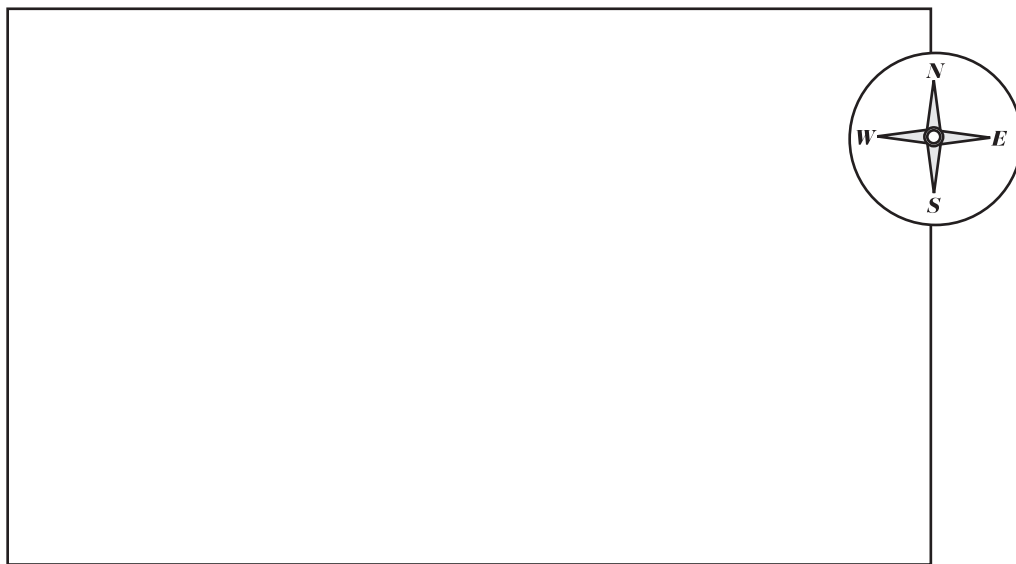
Sage drew a map of the school.

- The kindergarten classroom is north of the office.
- The playground is east of the kindergarten classroom.
- The lunchroom is south of the office.
- The bus zone is west of the office.
- The primary classrooms are east of the office.
- The upper-grade classrooms are north of the bus zone.

REMINDER

A drawing or diagram can help you “see” the problem more clearly. You can use simple pictures or symbols. Diagrams and pictures help you keep track of information in problems that take more than one step to solve.

What does Sage’s map look like? Draw it below.



Write About It



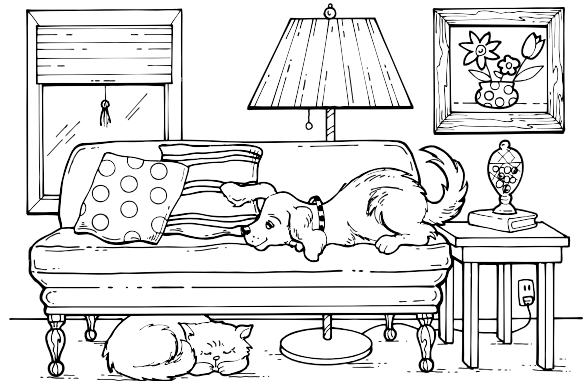
Warm-Up
105

What's the Problem?

Work It Out

Where is each item located?

1. The lamp is _____ the sofa.
2. The cat is _____ the sofa.
3. The dog is _____ the sofa.
4. The table is _____ the sofa.



WRITE
ABOUT IT

Warm-Up
106

What's the Problem?

Work It Out

Draw the picture described below.

- Draw a tree.
- Draw an apple under the tree.
- Draw a bird in the tree.
- Draw a sun above the tree.
- Draw a swing next to the tree.

WRITE
ABOUT IT
