




Article may be transmitted to your email. Other transmissions are prohibited.

Your email address: 







 Results Source & Summary Subjects Print

SCHOLASTIC DYNAMATH
Oct. 2006, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 12+

Copyright © Scholastic Inc. Oct. 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Equations Are a Scream!

By Lee Lefkowitz

- Learn about creepy creatures by turning word problems into simple equations!

Think you've seen some scary creatures? Well, have you ever seen a black flying fox? What about a Burmese python? You're about to! **Turn word problems into equations** and solve them to learn freaky facts about some extreme creatures!

Turning Word Problems Into Equations

- Read through the problem.
- Look for the information that will help you solve it. Underline or highlight that information.
- What does the question ask you to find out? Circle the question.
- Decide which operation you need to use.

Example: The black widow spider is about 1 inch long. The largest spider is the Goliath birdeater spider, which is 9 inches longer. How long is the Goliath birdeater spider?

- The black widow is 1 inch long.
- The Goliath is 9 inches longer.
- To find out how large the Goliath is, add: 1 inch + 9 inches = 10 inches

The Goliath birdeater spider is 10 inches long.

1. The world's smallest bat is called the *Kitti's Hog-nosed bat*. It has a wingspan of 6 inches. The largest bat is called the *black flying fox*. Its wingspan is 34 inches greater. Which equation would you use to find the black flying fox's wingspan?

- A. $34 - 6 = ?$
- B. $34 + 6 = ?$

What is the wingspan of the black flying fox? _____

2. A normal *house mouse* can jump 12 inches straight up, about 4 times its height. How high could a 5-foot-tall girl jump if she could jump 4 times her height? Write an equation and solve: _____

3. The caterpillar of the *Mother-of-Pearl larvae* is the fastest caterpillar in the world. It can travel 15 inches per second. But the *giant hunting wasp* travels 845 inches per second. How many inches per second faster is the wasp? Write an equation and solve: _____

4. The average 10-year-old boy weighs 80 pounds. The heaviest snake alive today is a *Burmese python* that weighs 400 pounds. (It lives at the Serpent Safari Park in Gurnee, Illinois!) How many pounds more does the python weigh? Write an equation and solve: _____

5. The smallest living rodent is the *African Pygmy mouse*. It's 2 inches long. The largest rodent ever to live was the now-extinct *Phoberomys pattersoni*. It was a whopping 116 inches longer! How long was the *Phoberomys pattersoni*? Write an equation and solve: _____

6. The *Polyphemus caterpillar* eats 86,000 times its body weight in the first 56 days of its life. What if a 7-pound human baby ate like that? How many pounds would it eat in the first 56 days of its life? Write an equation and solve: _____

Super Math:

Say a human baby ate the amount of food from question 6. How many *tons* of food is that? (Hint: 1 ton = 2,000 pounds)

Answer Bank

- 1. B: The wingspan is **40 in.**
 - 2. $4 \times 5 =$ **20 feet**
 - 3. $845 - 15 =$ **830 in.**
 - 4. $400 - 80 =$ **320 lbs. more**
 - 5. $116 + 2 =$ **118 in.**
 - 6. $7 \times 86,000 =$ **602,000 lbs.**
- Supermath:** 301 tons

[Home Page](#) | [Current Events](#) | [Spotlight of the Month](#) | [World Almanac](#) | [Encyclopedia Dictionary](#) | [Thesaurus](#) | [Help](#) | [Tips](#) | [Cite](#) | [Workbooks](#) | [Tutorial](#) | [Research Topics](#)

[Educator's Resources](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [License](#) | [Contact](#)

Copyright © 2010 ProQuest LLC.
All rights reserved.

