

Name:

Story Problems with Fractions

Directions: Some of the following story problems are solvable, some are not. Answer each problem by writing one of the following:

- *There is no way to solve this problem because...*
- *The solution is because*

1. First set of word problems:

- a. Tom pours $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water into an empty bowl. Then Tom pours $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of water into the bowl. How many cups of water are in the bowl now?
- b. Tom pours $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water into an empty bowl. Then Tom pours in another $\frac{1}{3}$. How many cups of water are in the bowl now?

2. Second set of word problems:

- a. Starting at her apartment, Sally runs $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down the road. Then Sally turns around and runs $\frac{1}{3}$ mile back towards her apartment. How far has Sally run since leaving her apartment?
- b. Starting at her apartment, Sally runs $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down the road. Then Sally turns around and runs $\frac{1}{3}$ mile back towards her apartment. How far down the road is Sally from her apartment?

3. Third set of word problems:

- a. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the land in Heeltoe County is covered with forest. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the land in the adjacent Toejoint County is covered with forest. What fraction of the land in the two-county Heeltoe-Toejoint region is covered with forest?
- b. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the land in Heeltoe County is covered with forest. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the land in the adjacent Toejoint County is covered with forest. Heeltoe and Toejoint County have the same land area. What fraction of the land in the two-county Heeltoe-Toejoint region is covered with forest?

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4. Fourth set of word problems:

- a. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the children at Martin Luther King Elementary School say they like to have pizza for lunch. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the children at Martin Luther King Elementary School say they like to have a hamburger for lunch. What fraction of the children at Martin Luther King Elementary School would like to have either pizza or a hamburger for lunch?

- b. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the children at Timothy Elementary School say they like to have pizza for lunch; the other half does not like to have pizza for lunch. Of the children that do not like to have pizza for lunch, $\frac{1}{3}$ like to have a hamburger for lunch. What fraction of the children at Timothy Elementary School would like to have either pizza or a hamburger for lunch?

5. Fifth set of word problems:

- a. Yesterday James ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pizza. Today James ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of a pizza of the same size. How much more pizza did James eat yesterday than today?

- b. Yesterday James ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pizza. Today James ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whole pizza. Nobody else ate any of that pizza. How much pizza is left?

- c. Yesterday James ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pizza. Today James ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the pizza that was left over from yesterday. Nobody else ate any of that pizza. How much pizza is left?