

$4(3 + 3)$

$\frac{80}{\square} ?$

$3 \times 4 - 7$

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$4(3 + 3)$

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FUN AND GAMES

COMIC CONVENTIONS

Division



Kristy Stark

Table of Contents

A Comic Obsession	4
The First Comic Convention	8
Comic-Con International: San Diego	12
Attending Comic-Con	14
More Comic Conventions	22
Lifetime Memories	26
Problem Solving	28
Glossary	30
Index	31
Answer Key	32

A Comic Obsession

The only thing Zach wants to do is read his comic books. He reads them while he eats breakfast. He daydreams about them while he's at recess. As soon as he gets home, he finishes his homework so he can read them while he has a snack. His mother jokes that he probably dreams about comic books, too. Even though Zach won't admit it, he actually does dream about comic book superheroes!

Zach plans to spend his entire summer vacation feeding his obsession. He'll read comic books and share them with his friends. He'll do small jobs for neighbors to earn money to buy tickets to Comic-Con®.

However, Zach's mom has different plans for his first day of summer vacation. "Mom, I just want to stay home to read my comic books!" whines Zach.

"I understand, Zach, but we are going to visit your uncle today. I haven't seen him in a long time, and he hasn't seen you since you were a baby. He's an interesting man who has lived an amazing life. I really think you will enjoy your time with him. He even knows a thing or two about comic books. You might learn something from him."

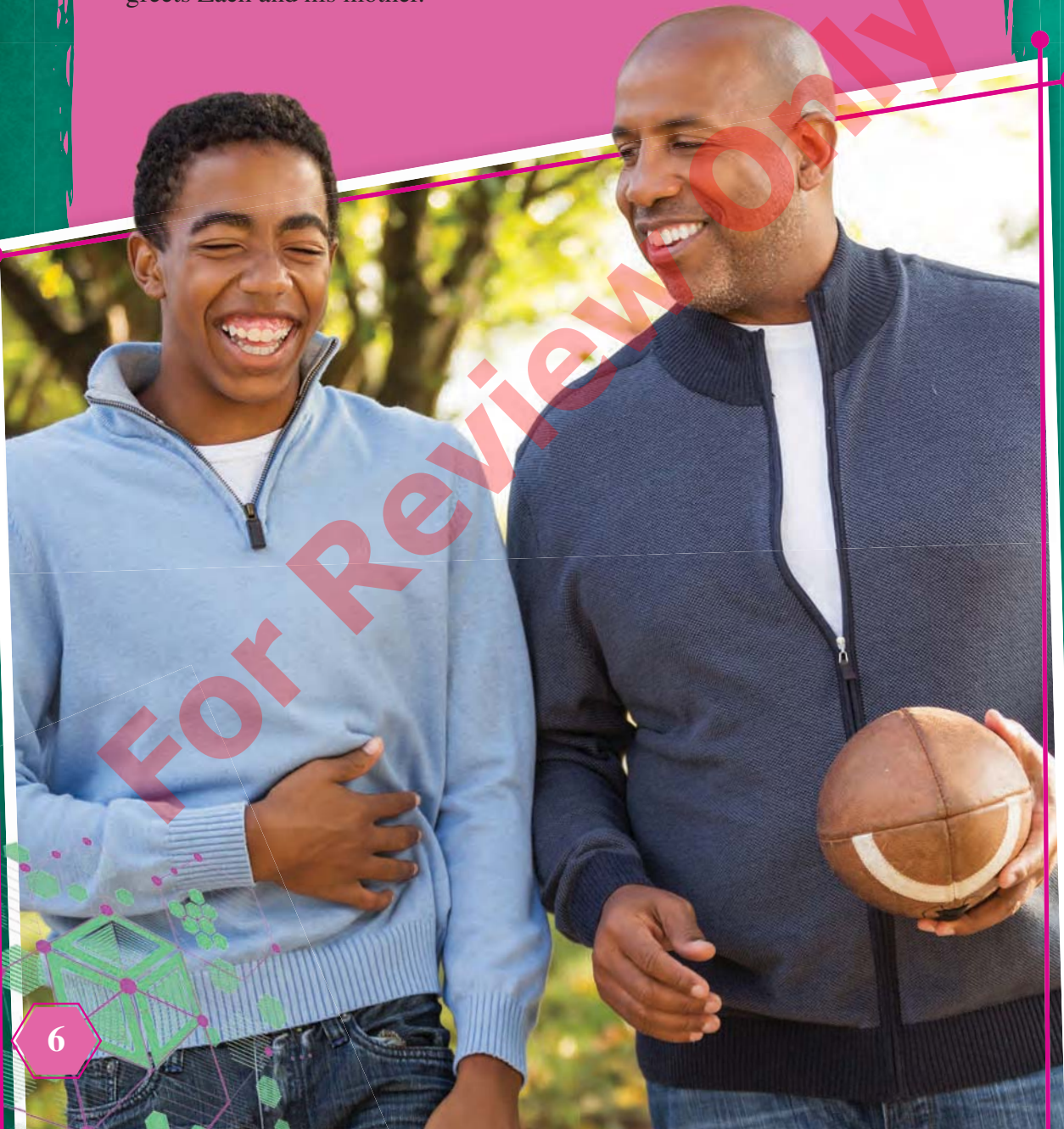


Comic books can be read in print or on digital devices.



What on Earth am I going to learn about comics from my uncle? thinks Zach. But, he figures that it is pointless to argue with his mother. At least he can read some comics in the car while they travel.

When they arrive at Uncle Graham's house a few hours later, Graham greets Zach and his mother.



Zach is very surprised to see that Uncle Graham doesn't dress as professionally as his mom does. Uncle Graham wears sneakers, jeans, and a T-shirt. The most surprising part is that he's wearing a T-shirt with a comic character that Zach recognizes: Green Lantern!

"How do you know about Green Lantern?" asks Zach.

"Green Lantern has been my favorite comic book character since I was a kid, Zach. I've loved and collected comic books since I was around 10 years old. Did you know that my father, your grandfather, even attended the very first comic book **convention**?"

"Grandpa went to the first Comic-Con? I'm saving my money so I can hopefully go one day!"

"Yes, he attended the very first one, but it wasn't in San Diego like it is today. Let me get his old photo albums to show you pictures from that first convention."

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Zach has 75 comic books. His mom wants him to store them in boxes instead of leaving them on the floor of his room. Each box holds 12 books. How many boxes does he need? Why?



The First Comic Convention

Zach is stunned to see Grandpa Al's photos. Graham tells him that the first convention was held in New York City on July 27, 1964. He shows Zach the photos and talks about the convention.

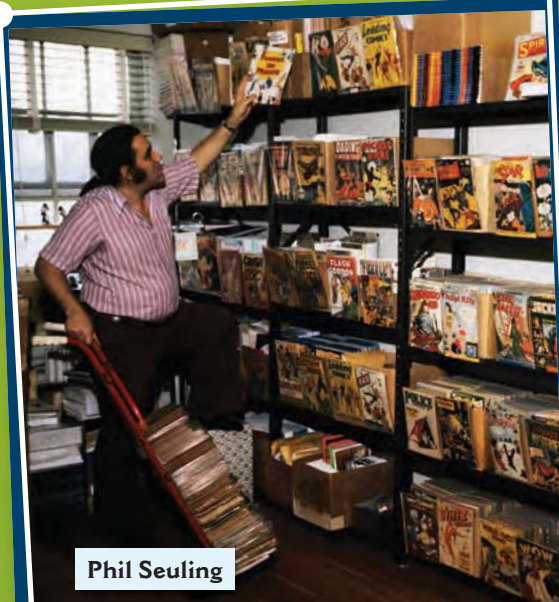
"The first convention was called *Comicon*. There were only about 100 people, and it was held on a hot day in July. Phil Seuling (SOO-ling) brought a case of soda to help the attendees cool down from the heat."

Zach's blank face indicates that he has no idea who Seuling was, so Graham decides that Zach needs to learn more about the history of the conventions.

How Collectors Got Their Comics

Seuling came up with the idea to have comic publishers sell directly to collectors and fans. This way, fans could buy the exact comic books they wanted from the publisher. Comics were previously sold like newspapers. They were sold at stands that had a new supply each day. The comic books that were not sold that day were returned to the publisher for a refund. The publisher recycled the returned books to make more books.

Seuling thought of a way to make sure that all comic books were sold. His idea would mean more money for the publishers. It would mean more comic books in the hands of fans, too.



Phil Seuling

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

About 100 people attended the first comic convention in New York City. Now, about 180,000 tickets are sold! How many times greater is the attendance now? Choose your answer, and explain how you know it is reasonable.

- A. 18
- B. 180
- C. 1,800
- D. 18,000



Math Talk

1. What does it mean when a division problem has a remainder?
2. How can division help you find missing factors in multiplication problems?
3. How can estimation help you decide whether a quotient is reasonable?
4. How can area models help you find quotients?
5. What patterns do you notice when dividing numbers by multiples of 10?
6. How might comic-convention planners use division?