

# Maya Solves the Pirate Treasure Equations

Grade 6

Math

Nonfiction

Pirates Theme

~167 words

CCSS.MATH.6.EE.B.7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

 **READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Maya discovered an old pirate treasure map at the local history museum. The map showed a ship with numbers written in faded ink. She learned those numbers were actually **equations** pirates used to divide gold. Pirates needed math to split treasure fairly among their crew. An equation is a mathematical statement showing two equal amounts. For example, pirates wrote  $x + 15 = 40$  to show unknown gold shares. Solving for  $x$  meant finding the missing amount. Maya practiced solving similar equations using the same steps. She noticed that pirates used opposite operations to isolate the variable. Subtracting 15 from both sides gave  $x = 25$ . Both sides of the equation stayed balanced, like a scale. Maya realized balance was the key rule in every equation. She also found a ledger showing crew payments over several voyages. Each entry used an equation to record missing payment amounts. Maya solved three ledger equations correctly on her first try. Maya left the museum understanding that equations help find unknown values fairly and accurately.

 *Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

# Maya Solves the Pirate Treasure Equations

Grade 6

Math

Nonfiction

Pirates Theme

~167 words

CCSS.MATH.6.EE.B.7

Questions

 **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

## MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

---

---

---

## TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what is an equation? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

---

---

---

## VOCABULARY

3. What does the word **equations** mean as it is used in this passage?

---

---

---

## INFERENCE

4. Why do you think pirates would need to use equations when dividing treasure among their crew?

---

---

---

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happened because Maya subtracted 15 from both sides of the equation  $x + 15 = 40$ ?

---

---

---

## TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What did Maya find in the ledger, and how does the passage support your answer?

---

---

---

# ✓ ANSWER KEY — Maya Solves the Pirate Treasure Equations

Grade 6

Math

Nonfiction

Pirates Theme

~167 words

CCSS.MATH.6.EE.B.7

TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Maya discovered an old pirate treasure map at the local history museum. The map showed a ship with numbers written in faded ink. She learned those numbers were actually **equations** pirates used to divide gold. Pirates needed math to split treasure fairly among their crew. An equation is a mathematical statement showing two equal amounts. For example, pirates wrote  $x + 15 = 40$  to show unknown gold shares. Solving for  $x$  meant finding the missing amount. Maya practiced solving similar equations using the same steps. She noticed that pirates used opposite operations to isolate the variable. Subtracting 15 from both sides gave  $x = 25$ . Both sides of the equation stayed balanced, like a scale. Maya realized balance was the key rule in every equation. She also found a ledger showing crew payments over several voyages. Each entry used an equation to record missing payment amounts. Maya solved three ledger equations correctly on her first try. Maya left the museum understanding that equations help find unknown values fairly and accurately.

## MAIN IDEA

### 1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about how Maya explored a pirate museum and learned that equations are mathematical tools used to find unknown values by keeping both sides balanced.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 2. According to the passage, what is an equation? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The passage states that 'an equation is a mathematical statement showing two equal amounts,' which tells us an equation always involves two sides that must be equal.

## VOCABULARY

### 3. What does the word **equations** mean as it is used in this passage?

In this passage, equations means mathematical statements that show two equal amounts and can be used to find a missing or unknown number, such as  $x + 15 = 40$ .

## INFERENCE

### 4. Why do you think pirates would need to use equations when dividing treasure among their crew?

Pirates likely used equations because dividing treasure unevenly could cause arguments or fights, so using math helped them prove that every crew member received a fair and equal share.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### 5. What happened because Maya subtracted 15 from both sides of the equation $x + 15 = 40$ ?

Because Maya subtracted 15 from both sides, both sides of the equation stayed balanced and she was able to find that  $x = 25$ , solving for the unknown amount.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 6. What did Maya find in the ledger, and how does the passage support your answer?

Maya found crew payment records in the ledger, and the passage states 'each entry used an equation to record missing payment amounts,' showing that pirates tracked financial information with equations.