

# Maya Solves the Mystery of Missing Tulips

Grade 6

Math

Nonfiction

Spring flowers Theme

~179 words

CCSS.MATH.6.EE.B.7

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

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

Maya spent her spring break counting flowers in her neighbor's colorful garden. She noticed that several rows had missing plants scattered throughout the beds. This curious discovery led her to explore how equations could help solve real garden problems. Maya saw that each flower bed was meant to hold exactly twelve tulips total. Some tulips had already bloomed above the soil, and others were still buried underground. She wrote out a number sentence: bloomed tulips plus buried tulips equals twelve. This number sentence was an **equation** — a math statement with two equal sides. Maya counted seven bloomed tulips in the first bed. She needed to find the missing number of buried ones. She replaced the unknown amount with a variable, writing  $x + 7 = 12$ . Then she subtracted seven from both sides and discovered that  $x = 5$ . Maya carefully checked her answer by adding five and seven together. The sum equaled twelve, which perfectly matched the bed's total. Her solution was correct every single time. Maya learned that equations are powerful tools for finding unknown values hidden in everyday life.

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

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Questions

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

## MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What evidence from the passage shows that Maya checked her work after solving the equation?

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## VOCABULARY

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

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## INFERENCE

4. Why was it important for Maya to use a variable in her equation instead of just guessing the answer?

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## CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What caused Maya to start writing equations while looking at the flower beds?

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What does the passage say Maya did to solve for  $x$  in the equation  $x + 7 = 12$ ?

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# ✓ ANSWER KEY — Maya Solves the Mystery of Missing Tulips

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

Maya spent her spring break counting flowers in her neighbor's colorful garden. She noticed that several rows had missing plants scattered throughout the beds. This curious discovery led her to explore how equations could help solve real garden problems. Maya saw that each flower bed was meant to hold exactly twelve tulips total. Some tulips had already bloomed above the soil, and others were still buried underground. She wrote out a number sentence: bloomed tulips plus buried tulips equals twelve. This number sentence was an **equation** — a math statement with two equal sides. Maya counted seven bloomed tulips in the first bed. She needed to find the missing number of buried ones. She replaced the unknown amount with a variable, writing  $x + 7 = 12$ . Then she subtracted seven from both sides and discovered that  $x = 5$ . Maya carefully checked her answer by adding five and seven together. The sum equaled twelve, which perfectly matched the bed's total. Her solution was correct every single time. Maya learned that equations are powerful tools for finding unknown

## MAIN IDEA

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

This passage is mostly about how Maya uses equations to find the missing number of tulips in a spring flower garden. She learns that equations are useful tools for solving real-life problems.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 2. What evidence from the passage shows that Maya checked her work after solving the equation?

The passage states, "Maya carefully checked her answer by adding five and seven together," which shows she verified her solution before accepting it as correct.

## VOCABULARY

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

In this passage, an equation means a math statement that shows two equal sides, such as  $x + 7 = 12$ , where both sides must balance each other.

## INFERENCE

### 4. Why was it important for Maya to use a variable in her equation instead of just guessing the answer?

Using a variable allowed Maya to set up a step-by-step equation she could solve accurately, rather than guessing; this shows that variables are tools for finding exact unknown values, not just estimates.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### 5. What caused Maya to start writing equations while looking at the flower beds?

Maya noticed that several rows had missing plants in the garden, which caused her to explore how equations could help solve the problem of finding the unknown number of buried tulips.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 6. What does the passage say Maya did to solve for $x$ in the equation $x + 7 = 12$ ?

The passage says, "She subtracted seven from both sides and discovered that  $x = 5$ ," which shows Maya used inverse operations to isolate the variable and find its value.