Name: _____

Basic Algebra Vocabulary

In algebra, a **variable** is an unknown quantity. It is often represented by a letter. With a red crayon, circle the variables (or unknown amount) in each of the expressions below.

$6 + x$ $y - 9$ $8 z$ $\dfrac{16}{v}$

A **constant** is a quantity with a value that does not change. It is usually represented by a number. With a blue crayon, circle the constants (or numerical amounts) in each of the expressions below.

$4 + n$ $d - 9$ $2 - m$ $5 + a$

An **expression** is a mathematical phrase with constants, variables, and/or operation symbols. Below each expression, tell what operation is used. Write <u>addition</u>, <u>subtraction</u>, <u>division</u>, or <u>multiplication</u>.

$y - 3$ $6 m$ $7 + n$ $\dfrac{9}{b}$

_____   _____   _____   _____

An **equation** is a mathematical statement that uses an equal sign to show that two or more expressions are equal. Tell whether each item below is an <u>equation</u> or <u>expression</u>.

$9 - n = 15$ $\dfrac{9}{b}$ $2c = 4$ $8 + a$

_____   _____   _____   _____

$$\boxed{2 + x = 12 + 7}$$

Is the mathematical statement shown
above an equation or an expression? _____

How many variables are in this statement? _____   How many constants? _____

ANSWER KEY

Basic Algebra Vocabulary

In algebra, a **variable** is an unknown quantity. It is often represented by a letter. With a red crayon, circle the variables (or unknown amount) in each of the expressions below.

6 + (x)   (y) - 9   8 (z) $\frac{16}{(v)}$

A **constant** is a quantity with a value that does not change. It is usually represented by a number. With a blue crayon, circle the constants (or numerical amounts) in each of the expressions below.

(4) + n   d - (9)   (2) m   (5) + a

An **expression** is a mathematical phrase with constants, variables, and/or operation symbols. Below each expression, tell what operation you would use. Write <u>addition</u>, <u>subtraction</u>, <u>division</u>, or <u>multiplication</u>.

y - 3   6 m   7 + n $\frac{9}{b}$

subtraction   **multiplication**   **addition**   **division**

An **equation** is a mathematical statement that uses an equal sign to show that two or more expressions are equal. Tell whether each item below is an <u>equation</u> or <u>expression</u>.

9 - n = 15 $\frac{9}{b}$ 2c = 4   8 + a

equation   **expression**   **equation**   **expression**

$$2 + x = 12 + 7$$

Is the mathematical statement shown above an equation or an expression? **equation**

How many variables are in this statement? **1**   How many constants? **3**