

Name: _____

Getting Ready for a New School Year

Math Story by Claudette J. Young

James Cotter's mother is a third grade teacher. One August morning, she was going to school to set up her classroom for a new school year.

She looked at James and asked, "Would you like to help?" James smiled. He loved helping his mother set up her classroom.

When he walked in, James looked at the door to the classroom. There was a sign that read, "Welcome to Room 216." His mother's new class will have twelve students in it. There were two big, round tables. Each table had the same number of chairs and there were exactly enough chairs for his mother's class.



He helped her with the supplies for each child. In front of each chair he placed one coloring page that said, "Welcome Back to School!"

Right beside each coloring page, James placed one agenda book at each seat. James looked at his mother and asked, "Are these for writing down homework assignments?" His mother nodded.

After that, he placed three bookmarks in front of each chair. The bookmarks had pictures of zoo animals. Each student had an elephant, a tiger, and a giraffe bookmark. James looked at his mother and said, "Your students will love these. The giraffe looks funny."

Next James put a box of twenty-four new crayons and a pair of rounded scissors at each seat. At the last chair, he had a box with only five crayons in it and no scissors. "Mom," James yelled, "You need more crayons and scissors."

Then he placed two brand new glue sticks in front of each chair. When he got to the last seat, there were no glue sticks left.

James went back to the supply box to get pencils. James' mother said, "Each student gets two." He pulled out the pencils and counted them. There were only fifteen pencils. James said to his mother, "There aren't enough. You'll need to buy some more pencils too."

He thought about the missing items. He spied his school backpack on the floor by the desk. James opened his pack and began to look for what his mother needed.

He found enough pencils, scissors, and crayons. He put the items from his backpack on the tables. James said to his mother, "Now all of your students have exactly the right amount of school supplies. You won't have to go to the store."

James' mother answered, "How wonderful! My students have all of their supplies now, but I still have to go to the store." James looked confused. His mother then said, "Now I have to buy more school supplies for my son!"

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Use information from the story to answer the questions.
Show your work in the space to the right.



1. How many students will be seated at each table?

answer: _____

2. How many bookmarks did James place on the tables?

answer: _____

3. When James passed out the crayons, he didn't have enough. How many more crayons did James need?

answer: _____

4. James didn't have enough glue sticks either. How many glue sticks did James put on the tables before he took some out of his backpack?

answer: _____

5. How many pencils did James remove from his backpack for his mothers' class?

answer: _____

6. How many pairs of scissors did James remove from his backpack for his mother's class?

answer: _____

ANSWER KEY

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Use information from the story to answer the questions. Show your work in the space to the right.

1. How many students will be seated at each table?

answer: 6

$$\underline{12 / 2 = 6}$$

note: If students haven't been taught division yet, they can solve this by drawing a picture.

2. How many bookmarks did James place on the tables?

answer: 36

$$\underline{12 + 12 + 12 = 36}$$

3. When James passed out the crayons, he didn't have enough. How many more crayons did James need?

answer: 19

$$\underline{24 - 5 = 19}$$

4. James didn't have enough glue sticks either. How many glue sticks did James put on the tables before he took some out of his backpack?

answer: 22

$$\underline{24 - 2 = 22}$$

5. How many pencils did James remove from his backpack for his mothers' class?

answer: 9

$$\underline{24 - 15 = 9}$$

6. How many pairs of scissors did James remove from his backpack for his mother's class?

answer: 1

$$\underline{12 - 11 = 1}$$