



MR. TIMES AND THE GNOMES

A Multiplication Adventure

In a faraway kingdom, nestled between rolling hills and shimmering lakes, stood a grand palace. Inside the palace were two enormous rooms—the treasure room and the storeroom. Both were overflowing with riches and supplies: bags of glittering jewels, mountains of gold coins, and piles of food and vegetables.

The King, who ruled this vast kingdom, scratched his head in confusion one day.

“I have no idea how much I own,” he said, pacing back and forth. “How will I know if I have enough for the winter or enough to share with my people?”

The little gnomes—faithful helpers of the King—tried to organize the mess. They carried bags, stacked boxes, and grouped items. But soon, they were overwhelmed. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn’t keep track of everything.

“Your Majesty,” said one exhausted gnome, “we need help! There’s just too much to count!”

The King thought for a moment and called for his old friend, **Mr. Times**, a wise and cheerful wizard who always found clever ways to solve problems.

Enter Mr. Times

With a swirl of sparkles, Mr. Times appeared in the treasure room. He has a warm, friendly face with sparkling eyes that show his excitement for teaching. Wearing a bright yellow tunic with a bold red “X” on it.

“Fear not, Your Majesty,” said Mr. Times with a grin. “I’ll teach the gnomes a simple way to bring order to this chaos.”

Turning to the gnomes, Mr. Times said,
“I am Mr. Times.
I make everything more.
I group things together
To make counting a chore no more!”

The gnomes clapped their hands in delight. “Please show us how!”





Learning to Group

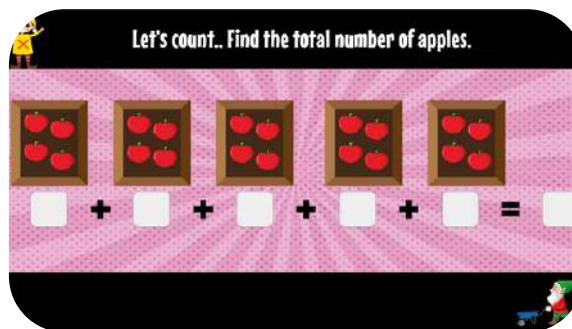
Mr. Times pointed to a pile of shiny red apples in the storeroom.

"First, we'll group these apples into boxes. Let's count how many apples fit into one box."

The gnomes carefully placed 4 apples into each box. Then they counted how many boxes they had—5 boxes.

"Now," said Mr. Times, "let's find the total number of apples. We can do this by adding the apples in each box:

$$4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 20."$$



The gnomes nodded, but one scratched his head. "That's a lot of adding. Isn't there a faster way?"

"Yes!" exclaimed Mr. Times. "That's where multiplication comes in. Instead of adding repeatedly, we multiply:

Number of groups x Items in each group = Total items.

$$\text{So, } 4 \times 5 = 20!"$$

Real-Life Practice

The gnomes were thrilled. They practiced grouping and multiplying with everything in the storeroom and treasure room—grains, jewels, coins, and even vegetables.

One little gnome, however, wanted to test his new skills outside the palace.



The Gnome's Journey

As he walked through the kingdom, the gnome found real-world opportunities to multiply:

1. Cows in the Field

He saw 5 cows grazing. Each cow had 4 legs.

"How many legs do the cows have altogether?" he wondered.

He quickly calculated:

$$5 \times 4 = 20 \text{ legs.}$$

Let's find the total number of legs of 5 cows.

5 cows are shown in a row. Below them is a sequence of five empty boxes followed by plus signs and an equals sign, with a final empty box for the answer.

Number of group \times Number of items in each group $=$ Total number of items

\times $=$

2. Birds on a Wire

Further along, he spotted 6 birds perched on a wire.

"How many wings do 6 birds have?"

He thought, "Each bird has 2 wings. So, $6 \times 2 = 12$ wings."

3. Doughnuts on Plates

When he reached home, his mother had placed 3 doughnuts on each plate for him and his 3 siblings.

"How many doughnuts are there in total?"

He calculated: $4 \text{ plates} \times 3 \text{ doughnuts} = 12 \text{ doughnuts.}$

Rows and Columns: A New Challenge

The next day, back at the palace, Mr. Times taught the gnomes about rows and columns.

"Rows are horizontal, like a person rowing a boat. Columns are vertical, like standing poles. Let's use them to organize jewels!"

The gnomes arranged 4 rows of 3 diamonds each.

"Now count the total number of diamonds," said Mr. Times.

They multiplied: $4 \text{ rows} \times 3 \text{ diamonds} = 12 \text{ diamonds.}$

Next, arrange the jewels. Here we have 4 rows of 3 diamonds.

A 4x3 grid of diamonds is shown. The rows are numbered 1 to 4 on the left, and the columns are numbered 1 to 3 on top.

Number of rows \times Number of columns $=$ Total number of items

By the end of his journey, the little gnome had mastered multiplication. He could group, add, and multiply with confidence.

Back at the palace, he proudly showed the King the organized storeroom and treasure room.

The King was delighted. "Thank you, Mr. Times, for helping my gnomes and teaching us this powerful skill!"

And so, the gnomes, with the help of Mr. Times, brought order to the kingdom and learned a skill they'd use for a lifetime.

THE END

Want to make the learning experience even more interactive?

Check out the Google Slides activity that complements this story



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