Name: _____ Date: _____

The Cereal Box Showdown

Circle group

Two cereal boxes, both the same brand, stand on a shelf. The small box has 12 ounces and costs 3 dollars. The big box has 20 ounces and costs 4 dollars. Which is the better buy?

The big box costs more, so it may look worse. But the boxes hold different amounts. So find the unit price. That is the cost of one unit, like one ounce.

You get it by dividing the price by the ounces. The small box is 300 cents. Divide by 12 ounces. That is 25 cents for each ounce. The big box is 400 cents. Divide by 20 ounces. That is 20 cents for each ounce.

Now it is fair. The big box costs 5 cents less for each ounce. Many stores put the unit price on the shelf tag.

A bargain helps only if you use it. If the cereal would go stale first, the small box may be smarter.

Questions

1. How many ounces are in the small box, and what does it cost?

_____

_____

2. What is a unit price?

_____

_____

3. How do you find the unit price?

_____

_____

4. Which box costs less for each ounce?

_____

_____

5. Where might the unit price be printed in a store?

_____

_____

6. Why might the small box be smarter for some families?

_____

_____

Words to know

ounces: small units used to measure how much something weighs
unit price: the cost of one single unit of something
divide: to split a number into equal parts
stale: no longer fresh or crisp

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Cereal Box Showdown

Triangle group

Two cereal boxes, both the same brand, stand on a grocery shelf. The small box holds 12 ounces and costs 3 dollars. The big box holds 20 ounces and costs 4 dollars. Which one is the better buy?

The big box costs more money, so it can look like the worse choice. But a shopper should not compare prices alone. The boxes hold different amounts. A better way is to find the unit price, meaning the price of a single ounce.

The way to get it is to divide the price by the number of ounces. The small box costs 300 cents. Divided by 12 ounces, that is 25 cents for each ounce. The big box costs 400 cents. Divided by 20 ounces, that is 20 cents for each ounce.

Now the comparison is fair. The big box costs 5 cents less for every ounce. Many stores print the unit price on the shelf tag, so you do not even have to divide.

There is one more thing to think about. A bargain only helps if you use what you buy. If the cereal would go stale before your family could finish the big box, the small box might be the smarter choice. Math gives you facts, and you add your own good sense.

Questions

1. How many ounces does the small box hold, and what does it cost?

_____

_____

2. What is a unit price?

_____

_____

3. How do you find the unit price?

_____

_____

4. Which box costs less for each ounce?

_____

_____

5. Where might you find the unit price in a store?

_____

_____

6. Why might the small box still be the smarter choice for some families?

_____

_____

Words to know

ounces: small units used to measure how much something weighs
unit price: the cost of one single unit of something
divide: to split a number into equal parts
stale: no longer fresh or crisp

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Cereal Box Showdown

Square group

A grocery shelf holds a pair of cereal boxes from one brand, placed close together. The small box holds 12 ounces and costs 3 dollars, while the big box holds 20 ounces and costs 4 dollars. Which of the two is the better buy?

Because the big box costs more money, it can seem like the worse choice. A careful shopper, however, does not compare prices alone, since the boxes contain different amounts of cereal. A much fairer method is to calculate the unit price, meaning the price you pay for a single ounce.

To do this, divide the price by the number of ounces. The small box costs 300 cents, and dividing by 12 ounces gives 25 cents for every ounce. The big box costs 400 cents, and dividing by 20 ounces gives 20 cents for every ounce.

Now the comparison is truly fair, and it shows that the big box costs 5 cents less for each ounce. Many stores print the unit price directly on the shelf tag, which saves shoppers from doing the division themselves.

Still, there is another thing worth considering. A bargain only helps when you actually use what you buy. If the cereal would turn stale before your family could finish the big box, the small box might be the wiser choice. Math supplies the facts, and you supply your own good judgment.

Questions

1. How many ounces does the small box hold, and how much does it cost?

_____

_____

2. What is a unit price?

_____

_____

3. How do you calculate the unit price?

_____

_____

4. Which box costs less for every ounce?

_____

_____

5. Where do many stores print the unit price?

_____

_____

6. Why might the small box be the wiser choice for some families?

_____

_____

Words to know

ounces: small units used to measure how much something weighs
unit price: the cost of one single unit of something
divide: to split a number into equal parts
stale: no longer fresh or crisp

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Cereal Box Showdown

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Cereal Box Showdown

Easier · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. 12 ounces for 3 dollars.
2. The cost of one ounce, or one of any other unit.
3. Divide the price by the ounces.
4. The big box, at 20 cents each ounce.
5. On the shelf tag.
6. The cereal might go stale before they finish the big box.

Triangle: The Cereal Box Showdown

This passage · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. 12 ounces for 3 dollars.
2. The cost of one ounce, or one of any other unit.
3. Divide the price by the number of ounces.
4. The big box, at 20 cents an ounce.
5. On the shelf tag.
6. If the cereal would go stale before they finished the big box, the savings would be wasted.

Square: The Cereal Box Showdown

Harder · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. 12 ounces for 3 dollars.
2. The cost of one ounce, or one of any other unit.
3. Divide the price by the number of ounces.
4. The big box, at 20 cents for every ounce.
5. Directly on the shelf tag.
6. If the cereal would turn stale before they finished the big box, the savings would be wasted.