Name: _____ Date: _____

Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

Circle group

A student wants to earn money in autumn. A neighbor offers two ways to pay for raking the yard. One way is $10 for every hour of work. The other way is a flat fee of $50 for the whole yard, no matter how long it takes. Which is better? It depends on a rate. A rate compares two different things, like dollars and hours.

Start with the hourly offer. The rate is $10 per hour. It never changes. Now look at the flat fee. To compare, turn it into dollars per hour. Divide the fee by the number of hours worked. The number of hours is what makes it tricky.

Say the student finishes in 4 hours. Then $50 divided by 4 is $12.50 per hour. That beats $10. But say the leaves are thick and wet. The job takes 6 hours. Now $50 divided by 6 is only about $8.33 per hour. The hourly pay would have been better.

The lesson is simple. A flat fee rewards speed. Hourly pay protects you if a job takes longer than you thought. Before choosing, the student can look at the yard, guess the time and divide. Adults think this way too when they choose a salary, a price for a project, or pay by the hour.

Questions

1. What are the two ways the student could be paid?

_____

_____

2. What is a rate?

_____

_____

3. How much per hour is the flat fee if the job takes 4 hours?

_____

_____

4. How much per hour is the flat fee if the job takes 6 hours?

_____

_____

5. Why might thick, wet leaves make hourly pay the better choice?

_____

_____

6. Who does a flat fee reward most?

_____

_____

Words to know

rate: a comparison of two different kinds of amounts
flat fee: one set price that does not change with the time taken
hourly: done or paid for each hour
salary: a fixed pay for a year of work

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: _____

Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

Triangle group

A student who wants to earn money in autumn is offered two ways to be paid for raking a neighbor's yard. The neighbor will pay $10 for every hour of work, or the neighbor will pay a flat fee of $50 for the whole yard, however long it takes. Which choice is better? The answer depends on a rate, which compares two different quantities, such as dollars and hours.

Start with the hourly offer, whose rate is $10 per hour and never changes. The flat fee has to be turned into dollars per hour before the two offers can be compared fairly. That means dividing the fee by the number of hours worked, and the number of hours is exactly what makes the decision tricky.

Suppose the student can finish in 4 hours. Then $50 divided by 4 comes to $12.50 per hour, which beats $10. But suppose the leaves are thick and wet, and the job drags on for 6 hours. Now $50 divided by 6 is only about $8.33 per hour, and the hourly pay would have been better.

The lesson is that a flat fee rewards speed, while hourly pay protects you when a job takes longer than expected. Before choosing, the student can look over the yard, estimate the time, and do the division. Adults use this same thinking when they decide whether to take a salary, charge by the project, or bill by the hour.

Questions

1. What are the two ways the student could be paid?

_____

_____

2. What is a rate?

_____

_____

3. How much per hour does the flat fee pay if the job takes 4 hours?

_____

_____

4. How much per hour does the flat fee pay if the job takes 6 hours?

_____

_____

5. Why might wet, thick leaves make the hourly offer the better choice?

_____

_____

6. Who does a flat fee reward most?

_____

_____

Words to know

rate: a comparison of two different kinds of amounts
flat fee: one set price that does not change with the time taken
hourly: done or paid for each hour
estimate: to guess a number by using what you know
salary: a fixed pay for a year of work

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: _____

Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

Square group

A student hoping to earn some money during the autumn months is presented with two alternative arrangements for raking a neighbor's yard. The neighbor is willing to pay $10 for every hour of labor, or else to pay a flat fee of $50 for the entire yard, regardless of how long the work takes. Which option is preferable? The answer hinges on a rate, which is a comparison between two different quantities, such as dollars and hours.

Begin with the hourly proposal. Its rate is $10 per hour, and that figure never varies. The flat fee, on the other hand, must be converted into dollars per hour before the two offers can be compared fairly. This requires dividing the fee by the number of hours worked, and the unpredictable number of hours is precisely what complicates the decision.

Suppose the student can complete the job in 4 hours. Then $50 divided by 4 comes to $12.50 per hour, which surpasses the hourly offer. Now suppose the leaves are thick and soaked, and the work drags on for 6 hours. In that case, $50 divided by 6 is only about $8.33 per hour, and the hourly arrangement would have paid more.

The lesson is that a flat fee rewards speed, whereas hourly pay offers protection when a job takes longer than anticipated. Before deciding, the student can inspect the yard, estimate the time required, and carry out the division. Adults rely on the same reasoning when they decide whether to accept a salary, charge a price for a project, or bill by the hour.

Questions

1. What two arrangements are offered to the student?

_____

_____

2. How does the passage define a rate?

_____

_____

3. What does the flat fee work out to per hour if the job takes 4 hours?

_____

_____

4. What does the flat fee work out to per hour if the job takes 6 hours?

_____

_____

5. Why might thick, soaked leaves make the hourly arrangement the better choice?

_____

_____

6. Which kind of worker benefits most from a flat fee?

_____

_____

Words to know

rate: a comparison of two different kinds of amounts
flat fee: one set price that does not change with the time taken
hourly: done or paid for each hour
estimate: to guess a number by using what you know
salary: a fixed pay for a year of work

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: Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

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

Circle: Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

Easier · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. $10 for every hour, or a flat fee of $50 for the whole yard.
2. A comparison of two different things, like dollars and hours.
3. $12.50 per hour.
4. About $8.33 per hour.
5. The job would take longer, so the flat fee would pay less per hour.
6. A fast worker, because the pay stays the same however fast the job is done.

Triangle: Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

This passage · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. $10 for every hour, or a flat fee of $50 for the whole yard.
2. A comparison of two different quantities, such as dollars and hours.
3. $12.50 per hour.
4. About $8.33 per hour.
5. The job would take longer, which lowers the pay per hour of the flat fee.
6. A fast worker, because the pay stays the same however quickly the job is done.

Square: Raking Leaves: By the Hour or by the Job

Harder · 252 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.5

1. $10 for every hour of labor, or a flat fee of $50 for the entire yard.
2. A comparison between two different quantities, such as dollars and hours.
3. $12.50 per hour.
4. About $8.33 per hour.
5. The work would take longer, which lowers the pay per hour of the flat fee.
6. A fast worker, because the pay stays the same however quickly the job is finished.