



## EQUAL GROUPS Schema



## COMPARISON Schema



Numeracy Consultants Presents

# Developing Schema

*Building the Mental Map for Word Problems*



### Equal Groups

*groups × number in each group = product*



### Comparison Mult Schema

*set x times as many, = product*

*"Every word problem has a structure — once students see it, they own it."*

# Developing Schema

## Free Supplement

Free Supplement

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# Equal Groups Cards

Free Supplement

## Objective:

The Equal Groups Cards help students understand situations where the same number is repeated across groups — the foundation of multiplication and division.

## How It Works:

Each card presents a numberless scenario with equal groups. Students identify the number of groups, the size of each group, and the total — using the graphic organizer.

## Why It Matters:

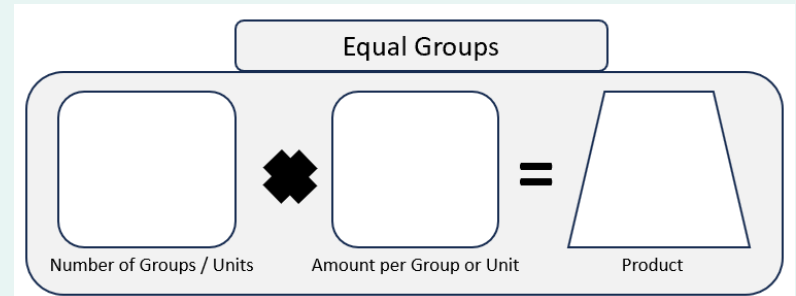
Students build the mental model for multiplication and division before numbers are introduced. This prepares them to write and solve equations with confidence.

 **Numberless Problem**

A student has some bags. Each bag has the same number of apples.

 **Think About It**

1. What are the equal groups?
2. What is the groups?
3. What schema is this: Equal Groups, Compare, or Change?

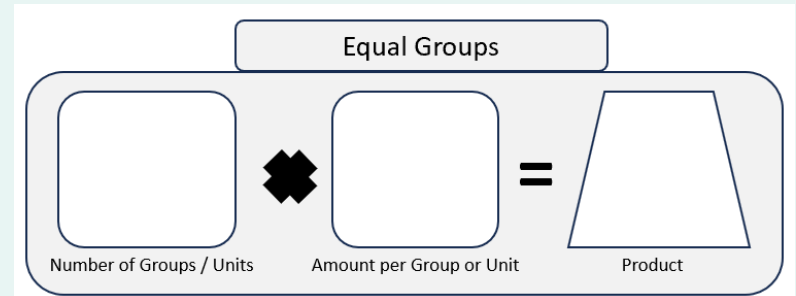


 **Word Problem**

A student has 4 bags. Each bag has 3 apples. How many apples are there in all?

 **Think About It**

1. How many groups are there?
2. How many are in each group?
3. What schema is this?

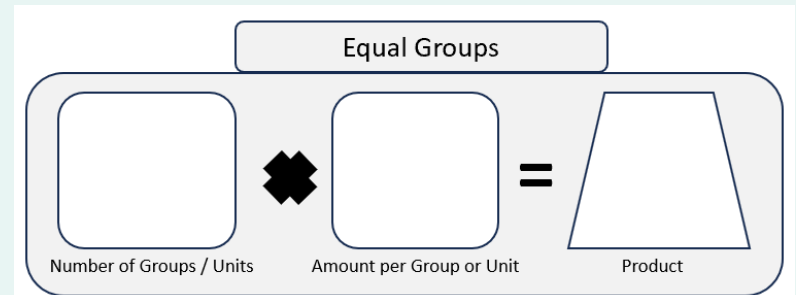


 **Numberless Problem**

There are some boxes. Each box holds the same number of crayons.

 **Think About It**

1. What is in each group?
2. What groups are described?
3. What schema is this?



 **Word Problem**

There are 5 boxes. Each box holds 6 crayons. How many crayons are there altogether?

 **Think About It**

1. What is the number of groups?
2. What is the size of each group?
3. What schema is this?

