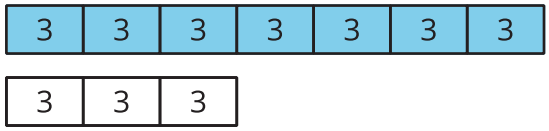
Unit 2, Lesson 16

Solving More Ratio Problems

Let's compare all our strategies for solving ratio problems.

16.1 You Tell the Story

Describe a situation with two quantities that this tape diagram could represent.

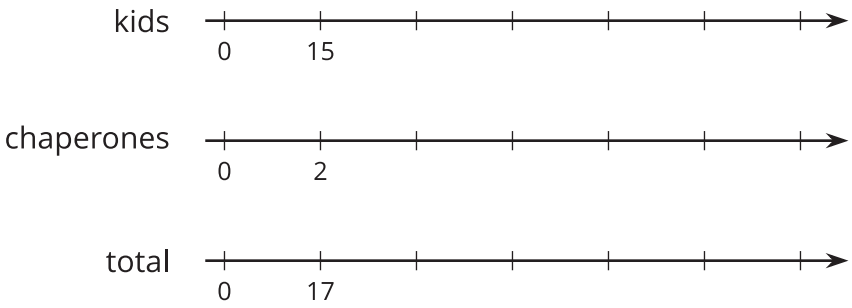


16.2 A Trip to the Aquarium

A teacher is planning a class trip to the aquarium. The aquarium requires 2 chaperones for every 15 students. The teacher plans accordingly and orders a total of 85 tickets. How many tickets are for chaperones, and how many are for students?

1. Solve this problem in *one* of three ways:

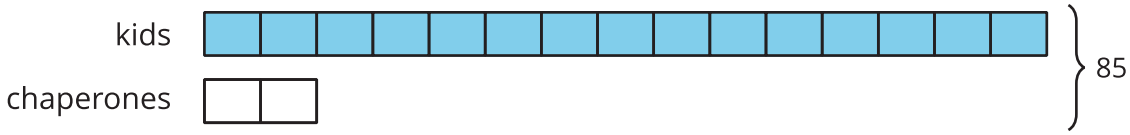
   Use a triple number line.



   Use a table.
   (Fill rows as needed.)

kids	chaperones	total
15	2	17

   Use a tape diagram.



2. After discussing all three representations with your class, which representation do you prefer for this problem and why?

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Are you ready for more?

Use the digits 1 through 9 to create three equivalent ratios. Use each digit only one time.

☐ : ☐ is equivalent to ☐☐ : ☐ and ☐☐ : ☐

16.3 Cleaning Fluid and Moving Boxes

Solve each problem and show your thinking. Organize it so it can be followed by others. If you get stuck, consider drawing a double number line diagram, a table, or a tape diagram.

1. A recipe for a cleaning liquid says to mix 4 parts water with 3 parts vinegar. How much water is needed to make a total of 28 tablespoons of the solution?

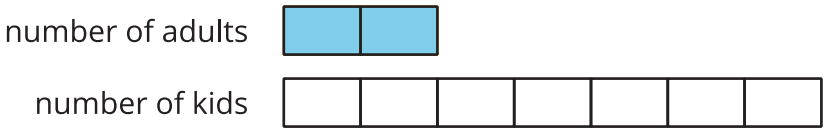
2. Andre and Han are moving boxes. Andre can move 4 boxes every half hour. Han can move 5 boxes every half hour. How long will it take Andre and Han to move all 72 boxes?

Lesson 16 Summary

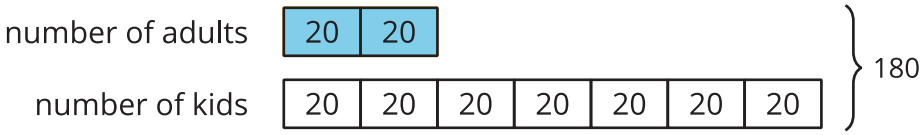
When solving a problem involving equivalent ratios, it is often helpful to use a diagram. Any diagram is fine as long as it correctly shows the mathematics and you can explain it.

Let's compare three different ways to solve the same problem: The ratio of adults to kids in a school is $2 : 7$. If there is a total of 180 people, how many of them are adults?

- *Tape diagrams* are especially useful for this type of problem because both parts of the ratio have the same units ("number of people") and we can see the total number of parts.

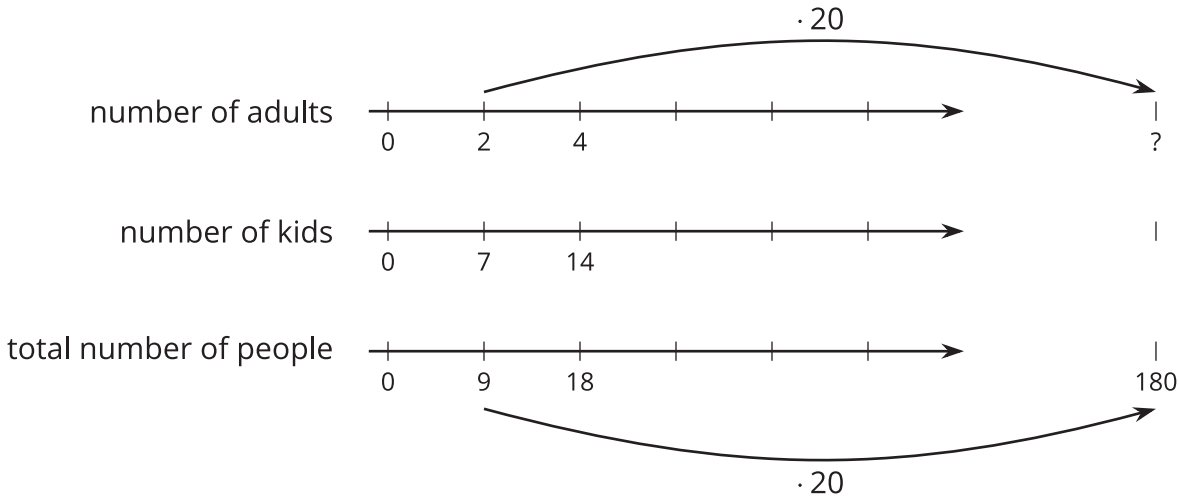


This tape diagram has 9 equal parts, and they need to represent 180 people total. That means each part represents $180 \div 9$, or 20 people.



Two parts of the tape diagram represent adults. There are 40 adults in the school because $2 \cdot 20 = 40$.

- *Double or triple number lines* are useful when we want to see how far apart the numbers are from one another. They are harder to use with very big or very small numbers, but they could support our reasoning.



- *Tables* are especially useful when the problem has very large or very small numbers.

adults	kids	total
2	7	9
?		180

• 20 (2 → ?) • 20 (9 → 180)

We ask ourselves, "9 times what is 180?" The answer is 20. Next, we multiply 2 by 20 to get the total number of adults in the school.

Another reason to make diagrams is to communicate our thinking to others. Here are some good habits when making diagrams:

- Label each part of the diagram with what it represents.
- Label important amounts.
- Make sure you read what the question is asking and answer it.
- Make sure you make the answer easy to find.
- Include units in your answer. For example, write "4 cups" instead of just "4."
- Double check that your ratio language is correct and matches your diagram.

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