

Contents

About Real Life Maths Mysteries	5
Refresh Your Memory on Metric	5
Note to Teachers	6
Real Life Maths Mysteries and National Standards	6-7

Real Life Maths Problems

Bank Manager, Associated Bank	10
addition, subtraction, multiplication of decimals	
Landscaper, Schalow's Nursery	12
Pythagorean theorem; squares and square roots; use of π	
Veterinarian, Wildwood Animal Hospital	14
multiplication of fractions	
Administrator, Adams Reach Heart Care	15
multiplication, subtraction of large numbers; division	
Pizza Restaurant Manager, Pizza Hut	17
addition, multiplication of fractions; finding common denominator; reading a chart	
Lawyer, Juneau, Minder, Gross & Stevning-Roe, S.C.	19
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: WRITE AN EQUATION	
changing percent to decimal; multiplication of decimals	
Farmer, The Lucas Farm	20
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: MAKE A TABLE	
addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of decimals	
Taekwon-do Instructor, Side-Kix	22
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: WRITE DOWN EACH STEP	
using a formula; subtraction, multiplication, division of decimals	
Auto Repair Shop Owners, Foreign Automotive Service	24
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: MAKE A CHART	
Travel Agent, Marathon Travel	26
finding percentage; subtraction of decimals	
Truck Driver, Roehl Transport Inc.	27
addition, subtraction of fractions; multiplication of decimals; finding percent; reading a log	
Horse Stable Owners, Widmare Stables	28
multiplication of decimals	
Contractor, Boson Company	30
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: WRITE A WORD EQUATION	
finding volume; addition, multiplication, division of decimals	

Detective, Adams Reach Police Department	32
subtraction, division of decimals	
Disc Jockey 2PQ AM	34
multiplication of decimals; finding the square root	
Zookeeper, Wildwood Park Zoo	36
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: YOUR CALCULATOR IS YOUR FRIEND	
multiplication, division of decimals	
Electrician, Ken Weis Electric	38
addition, subtraction, multiplication, division	
Fireman, Adams Reach Fire Department	40
changing percent to decimal; addition, multiplication of decimals;	
finding the square of a number	
Fitness Program Director, YMCA	42
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT	
changing percent to decimal; multiplication, division of decimals	
Newspaper Editor, Adams Reach <i>News-Herald</i>	44
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: DRAW A DIAGRAM	
changing decimal to percent	
Engineer, City of Adams Reach	46
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: USE SIMPLER NUMBERS	
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: CONSTRUCT A MODEL	
addition, subtraction of decimals	
Sporting Goods Specialists, Perkins Sports	48
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: USE SIMPLER NUMBERS	
PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT	
mental maths strategies for multiplication, percent; reading a chart	
Recycling Representative, Valley Waste	51
mental mathematics strategies to use with addition of large numbers;	
multiplication, division; decimals	
Archaeologist, Anthropological Studies Institute	54
Pythagorean theorem; square root; multiplication, division of decimals;	
subtraction of large numbers; changing percent to decimal	
Nurse, Adams Reach Clinic	57
multiplication, division of decimals; changing decimals to percent;	
changing percent to decimal	
Aeroplane Pilot, Aviation Services.....	58
large number addition; addition, multiplication of decimals	
Farmer, Simons Apple Orchard	60
addition, multiplication, analysis of data	
Writer, Adam's Reach Press	62
problem solving strategy: make a list of possibilities work systematically	
Teacher's Guide to Real Life Maths Problems.....	63
Answer Key Index.....	64

About Real Life Maths Mysteries



All of the problems in this book were created by individuals in the author's hometown - which has been given the fictitious name of Adams Reach. The problems come from each person's day-to-day experiences within their careers. The town, in a farming community, has 20,000 people more or less, and almost as many cows. There are also lots of ducks and chickens, utes, dress shops, bars, farmers, frogs, rabbits and rabbit shooters, doctors, sheep, wildflowers, dingoes, butterflies, bicycles, factory workers, mosquitoes, and lawn ornaments.

The people on the following pages are real people and so are the maths problems they describe.

+ - x √ π ± ÷ ≥ + - x √ π ± ÷ ≥

Refresh your memory on metric measurements

Abbreviations

mm - millimetre	g - gram	mL - millilitre
cm - centimetre	kg - kilogram	L - litre
m - metre	t - tonne	kL - kilolitre
km - kilometre		

Length:

1m = 1000mm	1kg = 1000g	1L = 1000mL
= 100cm	1t = 1000kg	1kL = 1000L
1cm = 10mm	1g = 1000mg	1m ³ = 1kL
1km = 1000m		= 1 000 000 cm ³