

Chickens and rabbits — Up to 60 animals

Name: _____

Date: _____

Find how many four-legged animals. Show how you worked it out.

- 1 A field holds 20 chickens and rabbits altogether. Between them they have 50 legs.

How many are rabbits?

Why If all 20 had two legs there would be 40 legs. There are 50, which is 10 more. Swapping a two-legged one for a four-legged one adds 2 legs, so $10 \div 2 = 5$ rabbits. More than one way works here. The other is to write both facts down and take one from the other: the two counts add to 20, and twice the first plus four times the second is 50. Doubling the first fact gives 40, and $50 - 40 = 10$ left over — two extra legs for each of the 5 rabbits.

5

- 2 A farmyard has 18 ducks and sheep in it. Counting every leg comes to 48.

How many are sheep?

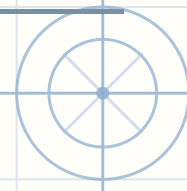
Why



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Find how many four-legged animals. Show how you worked it out.

- 3 A pet shop keeps 51 parrots and cats. Altogether they stand on 188 legs.

How many are cats?

Why

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- 4 35 flamingos and zebras are drinking at a waterhole. There are 86 legs in the water and on the bank.

How many are zebras?

Why

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Chickens and rabbits · Up to 60 animals — Answer key

If they are stuck

- What if every animal were the smaller kind? That is certainly wrong, and it is easy.



1. If all 20 had two legs there would be 40 legs. There are 50, which is 10 more. Swapping a two-legged one for a four-legged one adds 2 legs, so $10 \div 2 = 5$ rabbits. More than one way works here. The other is to write both facts down and take one from the other: the two counts add to 20, and twice the first plus four times the second is 50. Doubling the first fact gives 40, and $50 - 40 = 10$ left over — two extra legs for each of the 5 rabbits.

3. If all 51 had two legs there would be 102 legs. There are 188, which is 86 more. Swapping a two-legged one for a four-legged one adds 2 legs, so $86 \div 2 = 43$ cats. More than one way works here. The other is to write both facts down and take one from the other: the two counts add to 51, and twice the first plus four times the second is 188. Doubling the first fact gives 102, and $188 - 102 = 86$ left over — two extra legs for each of the 43 cats.

2. If all 18 had two legs there would be 36 legs. There are 48, which is 12 more. Swapping a two-legged one for a four-legged one adds 2 legs, so $12 \div 2 = 6$ sheep. More than one way works here. The other is to write both facts down and take one from the other: the two counts add to 18, and twice the first plus four times the second is 48. Doubling the first fact gives 36, and $48 - 36 = 12$ left over — two extra legs for each of the 6 sheep.

4. If all 35 had two legs there would be 70 legs. There are 86, which is 16 more. Swapping a two-legged one for a four-legged one adds 2 legs, so $16 \div 2 = 8$ zebras. More than one way works here. The other is to write both facts down and take one from the other: the two counts add to 35, and twice the first plus four times the second is 86. Doubling the first fact gives 70, and $86 - 70 = 16$ left over — two extra legs for each of the 8 zebras.