

3 Uses of Variables

What You Learned

Learning Goal

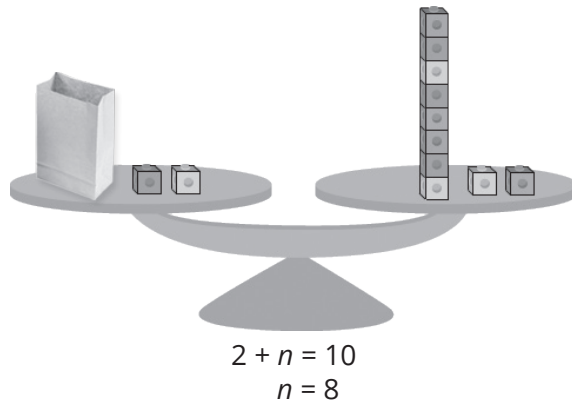
I understand different ways variables are used.

Lesson Summary

- A variable is a letter or shape that represents a quantity.
- Sometimes a variable represents an unknown amount you want to figure out. For example,

$13 + 10 = \square$ (\square represents 23, the amount you get when you add 10 to 13.)

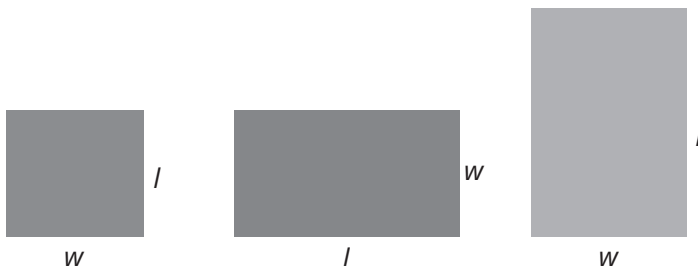
$2 + n = 10$ (n represents 8, the number you add to 2 to get 10.)



- Sometimes a variable represents a value that can change and still make the equation true. For example,

$4 \times m = 2 \times s$ is true whenever s is double m .

$A = l \times w$ is true for a rectangle of any size.



$A = l \times w$

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Uses of Variables

What You Learned (continued)

- Sometimes a variable is used to describe two ways to say the same thing. For example,

$$2 \times \square = \square + \square$$

$$2 \times n + 5 = n + 2 + n + 3$$



$$2 \times n + 5 = n + 2 + n + 3$$

Key Terms

equation: a mathematical sentence that is balanced around an equal symbol; for example, $4 + 4 = 8$, $4 + z = 6 + 2$, and $3 \times m = n$ are equations

variable: a letter, shape, or other symbol that stands for a number; in the equation $3 + a = 12$, a is a variable
