

Commentary

Venus, XVIII

1. **(6¢)** Students will need to know that a dime is 10 pennies, and four more pennies is 14¢. Therefore 6¢ more is needed to get to 20¢. Some will count up from 14 to 20, and some will subtract.
2. **(lions, elephants and bears)** Rachael is too late to see the monkeys and too early to see the zebras and giraffes being fed. This problem involves reading a chart and using knowledge of time.
3. **(6 tails and 12 eyes)** Students might draw the lions with stick figures, with 4 legs on each, till they have 24 legs. Then they can count the number of lions they drew, put a tail on each, and have the first answer. They might put two dots on each stick figure for the eyes, and count to get the second answer.
4. **(18 blocks)** Each tower has 6 cubes, but one of them is hidden from view. If students actually make one of the figures, they will readily see this.
5. **(neither)** The twins ate the same size pieces. The best way to demonstrate something like this to students is to take 2 identical squares made of wood and cut them in the two ways shown, then weigh one piece from each cut. The two pieces should balance. If you try this with an actual sandwich, be sure the bread is square or rectangular, without rounded corners, or the "halves" may be off somewhat.
6. **(17, 14, 36)** Many students will not realize what these symbols mean, and others will see it naturally. Those who have trouble probably don't realize that the first number shown is where you begin, and the arrow shows movement from that spot on the chart to another number on the chart. The second number is where you end up on the chart. Students can practice this by placing a finger on the start number, then moving with the arrow to the final number called for by the box.
7. **(7)** This problem involves three of the arrow movements. These problems can be extended in the classroom by introducing the other arrow movements not shown, by stringing together more arrows, by using arrows which cancel each other's movement, and even by giving the arrows and the end number, and asking where you started.