



Story Problems

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“TIPS” is a strategy for solving a story problem by breaking the story into understandable pieces and really *thinking about* and *picturing* what the story is asking. **TIPS** is not for everyone – but should be considered just another tool for learners to have in their math kits.

“TIPS” is an acronym that stands for the four steps below:

T = Thought (is it addition or subtraction?) + or -

I = Information (what are the numbers in the story?)

P = Plan (what will the equation look like without the answer?)

S = Solution (in a full sentence)

TIPS does not solve the problem, but it helps students organize the question into an equation that can be solved using other strategies they have been taught.

Examples:

Marc has 6 crayons. He gave 4 to his friend Jon. How many crayons does Marc have left?

T : -

I : 6, 4

P : $6 - 4 = \underline{\quad}$

S : Marc has 2 crayons left.

More Examples:

There were some birds sitting in a tree. 5 of them flew away. 6 are still sitting in the tree. How many birds were in the tree to begin with?

T : -

I : 5, 6

P : $\underline{\quad} - 5 = 6$

S : There were 11 birds in the tree to begin with.

Mom baked 12 cupcakes. She gave two cupcakes to me and put the other cupcakes in a box. How many cupcakes did she put in the box?

T : -

I : 12, 2

P : $12 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$

S : Mom put 10 cupcakes in the box.

Note: The picture boxes are for the student to be able to draw circles or lines to show their thinking when they solve the equation.

Name _____

Adam had 8 toy dinosaurs. His brother gave him 6 more. How many dinosaurs does Adam have now?

T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture

Name _____

Ally had 7 balloons. Three of her balloons popped. How many balloons did Ally have left?

T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture

Name _____

Nick had 10 marbles. Six of them rolled away. How many marbles does Nick have now?

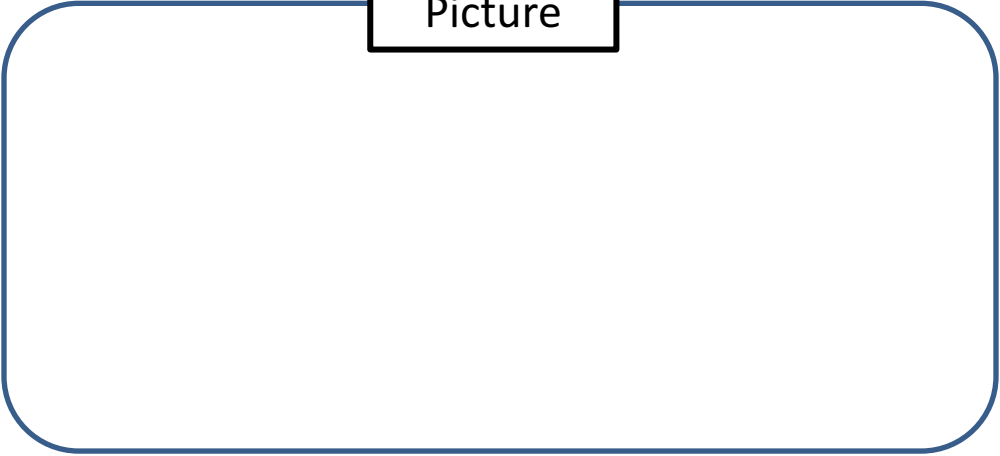
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Dylan had some apples. His friend Max gave him 3 more. He now has 8! How many apples did Dylan have to start?

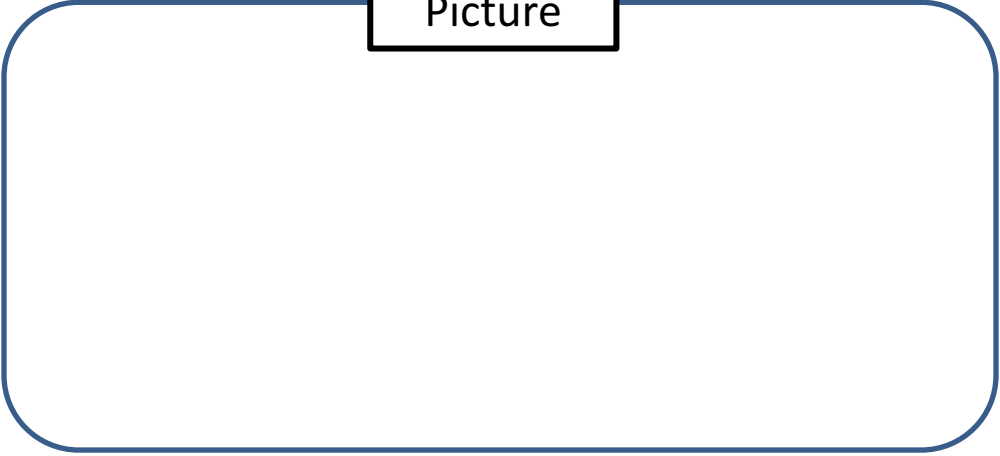
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Annie had 15 stickers in her book. 8 stickers fell off. How many stickers does Annie have in her book now?

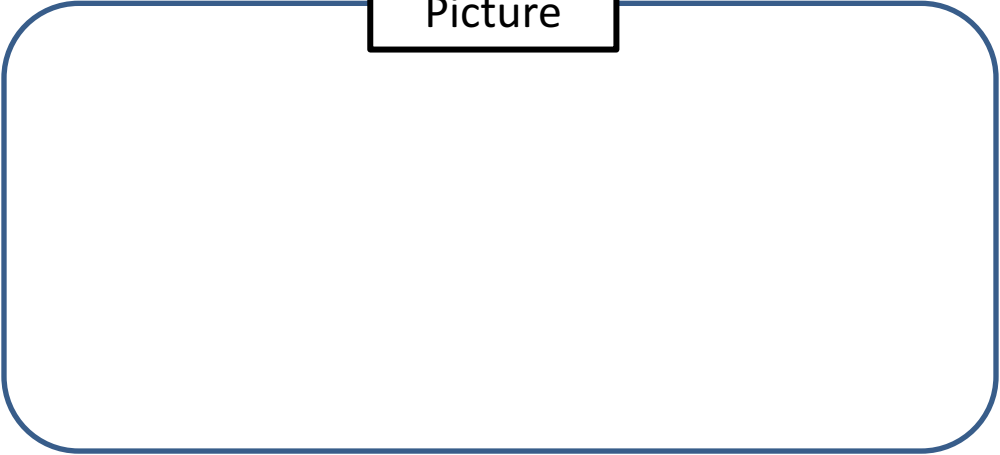
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Bob had 12 pennies. His friend Joe gave him 7 more. How many pennies does Bob have now?

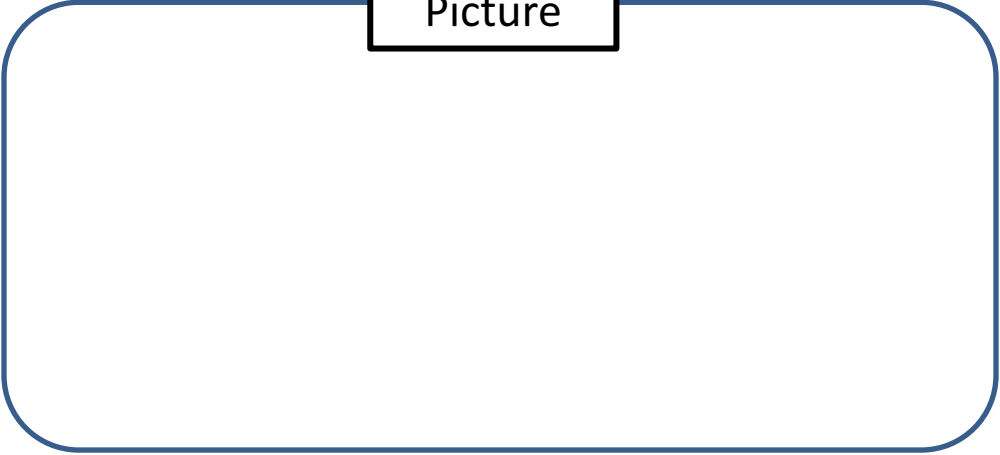
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Cal had 2 pencils. Tim gave her **some** more. She now has ten pencils. How many pencils did Tim give her?

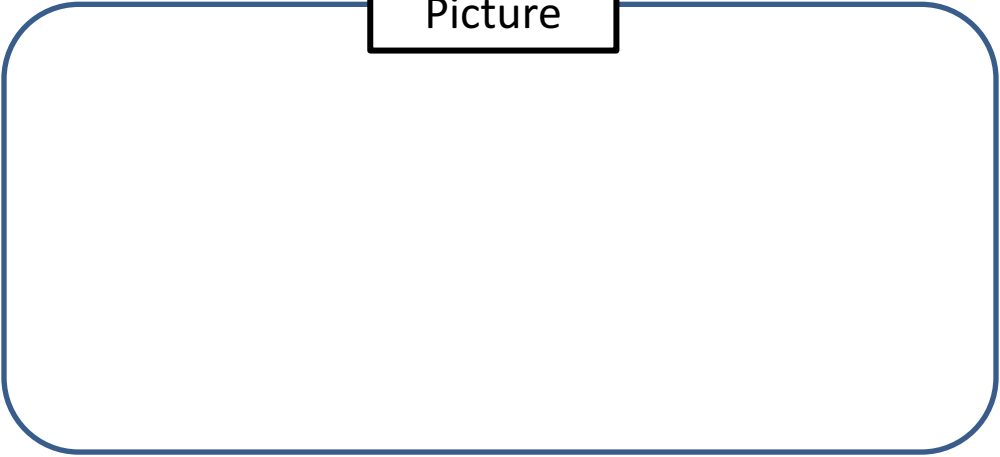
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Lin had 4 winter hats. Her friend Maria gave her 11 more. How many hats does Lin have now?

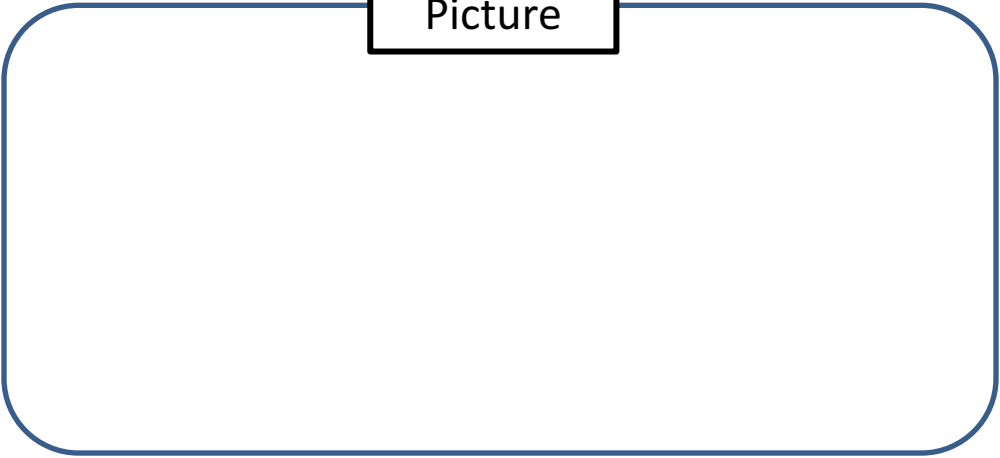
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Ed made 8 snowmen. The sun came out and melted some. Ed only had 3 left. How many snowmen melted?

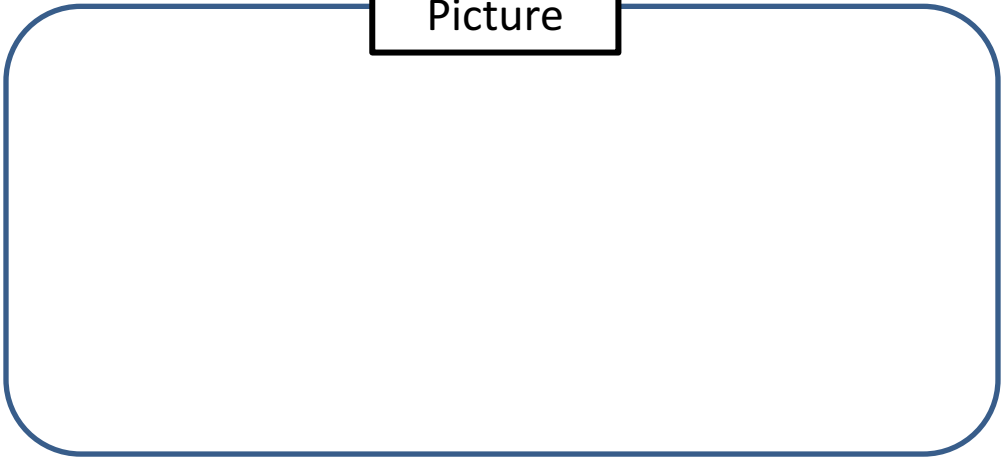
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Patrick had 7 mittens. His friend Ayla gave him 1 more. How many mittens does Patrick have now?

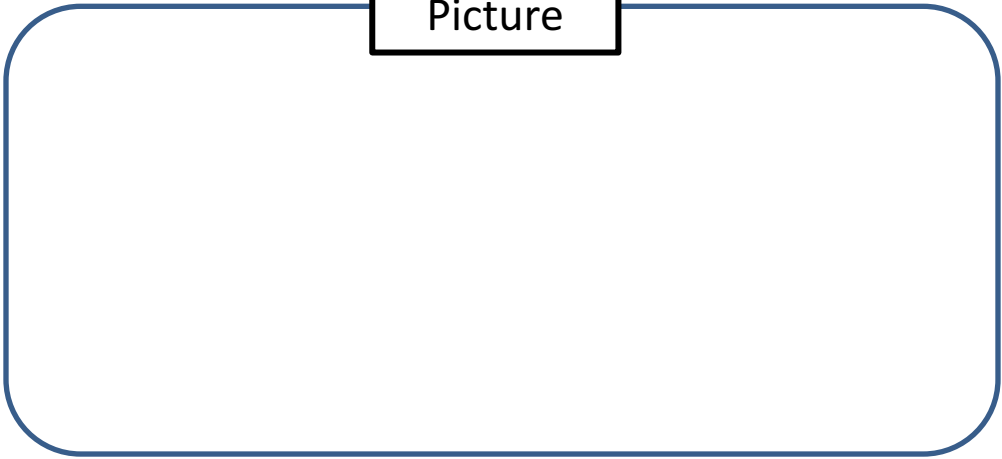
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

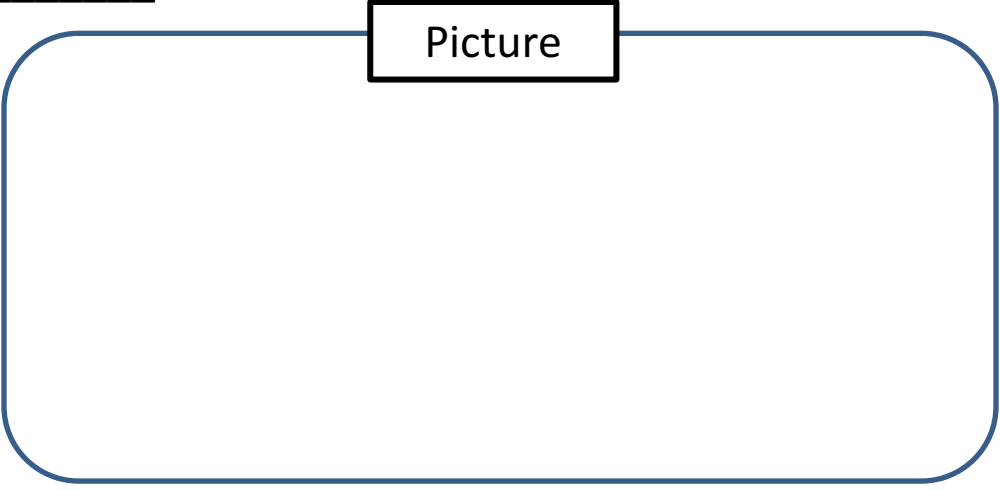
Picture



Name _____

Niki made 8 snow angels. Her friend Abby made 4. How many angels did they make altogether?

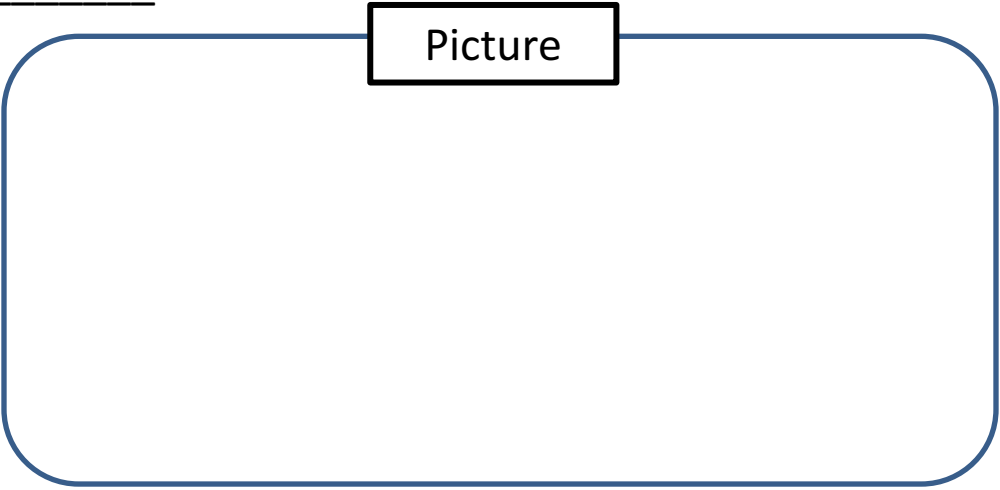
T _____
I _____
P _____
S _____



Name _____

Shari-Lynn had 9 French fries. Her friend Jordan ate 6 of her fries. How many does Shari-Lynn have left?

T _____
I _____
P _____
S _____



Name _____

Alana made 14 apple pies. Her friend Ella ate 4. How many pies did Alana have left?

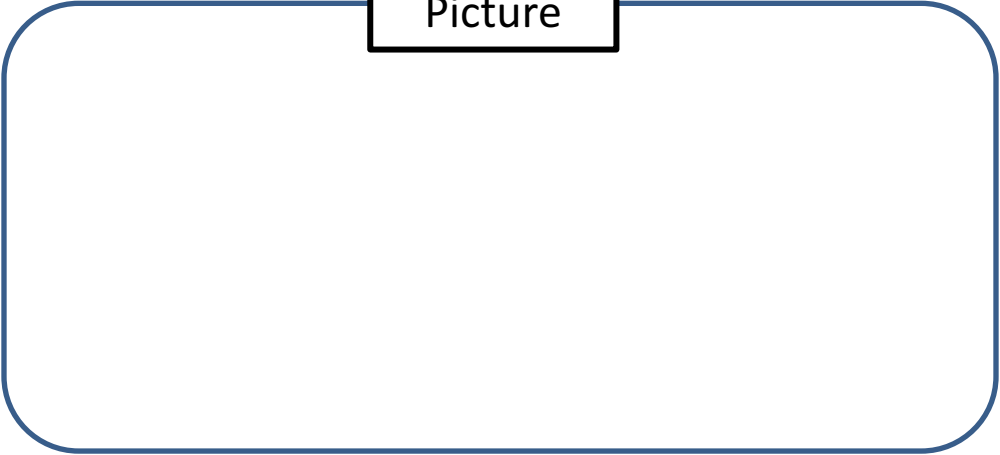
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Brandon had some candy kisses. He ate six. He had 4 left. How many kisses did Brandon have to start with?

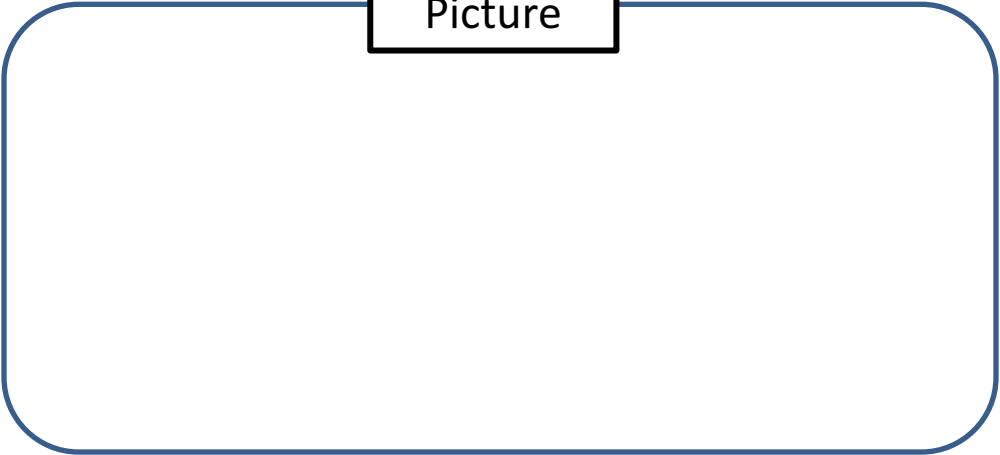
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Kelly had 4 friends over to play. Two of them went home. How many of Kelly's friends were left?

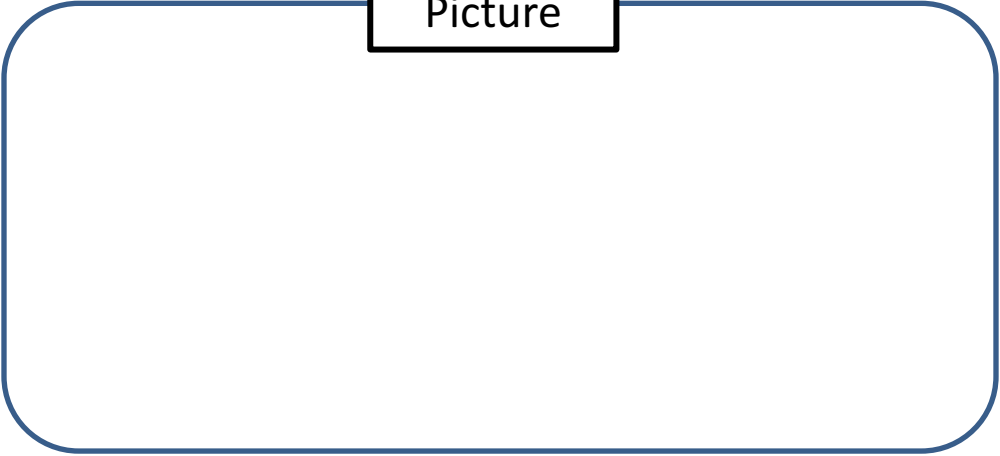
T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture



Name _____

Rose has 8 cookies for a snack. Her friend Josie has 8 cookies too. How many do the girls have altogether?

T _____

I _____

P _____

S _____

Picture

