

OPEN AND PARALLEL TASKS FOR GRADE 6/LEVEL G

These differentiated tasks are based on the task, “The Price Is Right” on page 23 of *Making Sense of Problem Solving: Targeting NCTM Curriculum Focal Points*, Level G/Grade 6, (2008) Teacher to Teacher Publications, Inc.

Open Task

Create and solve a word problem that uses each of the following numbers and concepts: \$35.42, \$10.25, \$31.50, \$45.99, "divide" and "same amount".

Parallel Tasks

Option 1: The environmental club took a 4-day trip to the ocean. Mark paid \$35.42 for groceries. Sally paid \$10.25 for snack and pop. Garret paid \$31.50 for the campsite deposit, and Lola paid \$45.99 to rent some camping equipment. They want to share the cost of the trip equally. Sally wants to estimate what each person’s share of the cost of the trip should be. Describe a method she could use to estimate. Using that method, how much do you estimate each person should pay?

Option 2: The environmental club took a 4-day trip to the ocean. They want to share the expenses equally and need to figure out who owes money to whom. Mark's total for the groceries came to \$35.42. Sally bought snacks and pop at a store where they were normally would have cost \$10.25, but were on sale for 20% off. Garret paid \$31.50 for the campsite deposit. Lola paid \$45.99 to rent some camping equipment, plus a sales tax of 5.75 %. If they want to share the expenses equally, who owes money to whom? How much?

Notes

The Open Task has a variety of possible contexts. Students may choose to do some kind of averaging scenario for their story, or they may set it up to calculate the total and then divide by a variety of divisors.

For students who are having difficulty with decimal or division contexts, Option 1 of the Parallel Tasks would be a good choice. They could model the task with play money. Rounding allows students to make sense of decimals but estimate with whole numbers.

Option 2 is more complex because students will have to calculate the discounted price of the sale items and the tax for camping equipment. They will also have to calculate how much money some of the students need to pay others.