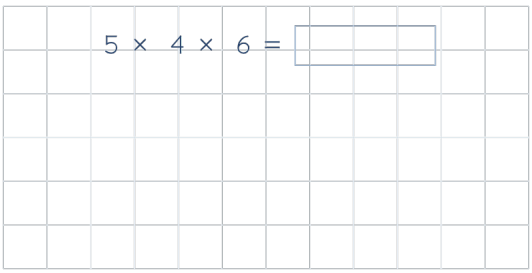
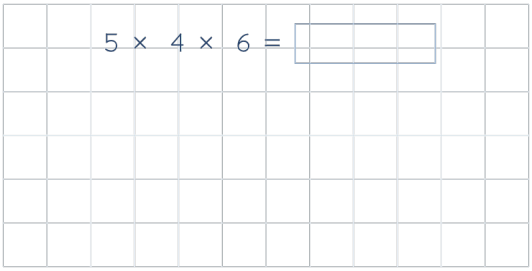
Year 3 - Multiplying 3 Numbers — Lesson Guide

Step 1



First, we circle both multiplication signs in the question. There are two multiplications, so we will calculate in two steps.

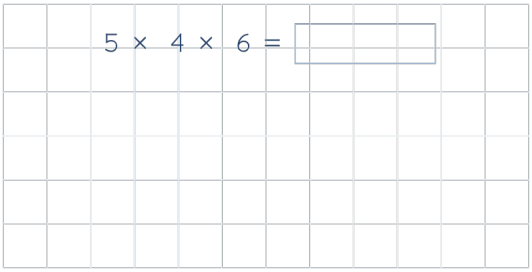
Step 2



Remember: Look at all three numbers. Use each original number once.

Multiplication is commutative, which means we can multiply the numbers in any order and get the same product. Let’s look for a pair that is easy to work out first.

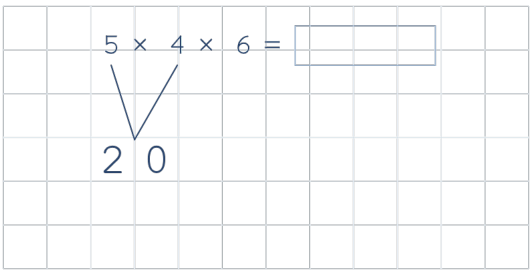
Step 3



Remember: Use each original number once.

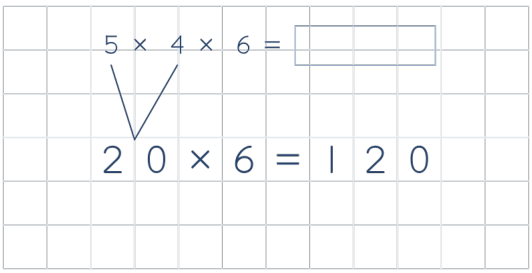
Use multiplication facts to choose a helpful pair. A useful pair here is 5 and 4. 5 × 4 = 20. 20 is 2 tens. We can use 2 × 6 to find the number of tens in the product. Draw a line from each chosen number to where we will write the first result. Keep 6 for the next step. Other pairs can still give the same product.

Step 4



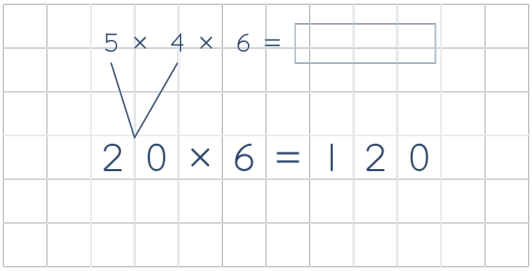
First, we multiply the chosen pair. 5 × 4 = 20. We write 20 on the squares, in the middle below the two chosen numbers. We still need the remaining factor, 6.

Step 5



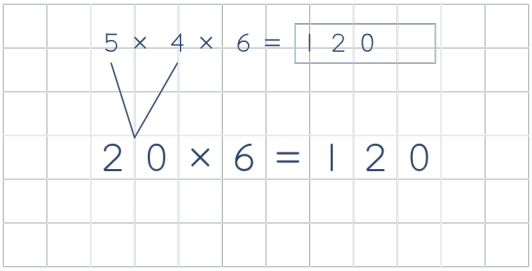
Next, we multiply our first result by the remaining factor. 20 is 2 tens. We know 2 × 6 = 12, so the product is 12 tens. 20 × 6 = 120. We can use our number facts mentally or choose a suitable written method if needed. We have now used all three original numbers once.

Step 6



Now, we check that we have used all three original factors once. First, 5 × 4 = 20. Then, 20 × 6 = 120. All three original numbers have been used once.

Step 7



The product is 120. Copy 120 into the answer box. Make sure you copy the answer correctly.