



The diagram illustrates a sequence of numbers: 5, 6, 9, 3, 6, +, 8, 6, followed by an equals sign and a question mark. Colored dots are placed above each number, and lines connect them to show a path. The path starts at the first dot (purple), goes to the second dot (yellow), then to the third dot (purple), then to the fourth dot (purple), then to the fifth dot (pink), then to the sixth dot (red), then to the seventh dot (orange), and finally to the eighth dot (orange). The lines are colored to match the dots they connect: purple, yellow, purple, pink, red, orange, and orange.

$$5-6-9-3-6+8-6=?$$