

Activity 1.4.3: Problem Solving Involving Rational Algebraic Expressions

Total points = 33

1. Let x = amount of time in hours to complete the job when working together

$$\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{x}$$
$$20x \left[\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{x} \right]$$
$$x + 4x = 20$$
$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{20}{5}$$
$$x = 4$$

2. Let x = number of hours it will take to fill the pool

$$\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{x}$$
$$12x \left[\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{x} \right]$$
$$4x - x = 12$$
$$\frac{3x}{3} = \frac{12}{3}$$
$$x = 4$$

3. Let x = amount of time in hours to complete the job when working together

$$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{x}$$
$$42x \left[\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{x} \right]$$
$$7x + 6x = 42$$
$$\frac{13x}{13} = \frac{42}{13}$$
$$x = 3\frac{3}{13}$$

4. Let x = amount of time in hours to complete the job when working together

$$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{x}$$
$$12x \left[\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{x} \right]$$
$$3x + 2x = 12$$
$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{12}{5}$$
$$x = 2\frac{2}{5}$$

5. Let x = the number of additional gallons of gasoline needed to travel 200 miles.

$$\frac{1}{20} = \frac{x}{x+7}$$
$$(x+7) \left[20 = \frac{200}{x+7} \right]$$
$$20(x+7) = 200$$
$$20x + 140 = 200$$
$$20x + 140 - 140 = 200 - 140$$
$$\frac{20x}{20} = \frac{60}{20}$$
$$x = 3$$

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