Question:

Melanie is a door-to-door saleswoman. She sold a third of her vacuum cleaners at the green house2 more to the red houseand half of what was left at the orange house. If Melanie has 5 vacuum cleaners lefthow many did she start with?

Reasoning + Answer:

<think>At the orange house, she sold 1 * 2 = 2 vacuum cleaners, since she had half of what was left when she sold to the orange house, then, before selling to the orange house, she had 2 * 2 = 4 vacuum cleaners. Therefore, Melanie had 4 + 2 = 6 vacuum cleaners before she made sales at the red house. Therefore, Melanie started with 6 + 3 = 9 vacuum cleaners.</think>