

The chicken and the egg

Annotation

Peni recognizes that this problem involves equal groups. She uses repeated addition and her knowledge of doubles to solve this multiplication problem.

Problem: The chicken and the egg

The teacher shows this problem to the student and reads it with her as required:

If Butter the chicken lays 3 eggs each week for 4 weeks, how many eggs has she laid?

Student response

Peni: Butter lays 12 eggs.

Teacher: Tell me how you did that.

Peni: Three eggs each week for four weeks is $3 + 3 + 3 + 3$ and that's $3 + 3$ which is 6 eggs for the first two weeks and the other $3 + 3$ is 6 eggs for the next two weeks. And $6 + 6$ makes 12 so that's 12 eggs in four weeks.

Teacher: What do you know that helped you?

Peni: I know it's groups of 3 and I know my doubles like $3 + 3 = 6$ and $6 + 6 = 12$.