



Name: _____

Let's Go Bananas!



Nutritious and delicious, bananas are one of the best-loved foods on earth by people of all ages. Let's learn more about this tasty treat!



Bananas do not grow on trees!

There is no such thing as a banana tree. Banana plants are actually very tall herbs. There is no woody trunk. The stem is formed from tightly wrapped leaves. New leaves grow out of old leaves. Some banana plants grow amazingly fast. One plant spurts up 20.5 centimeters or about 8 inches every day. If you watch very carefully, you can see this plant grow!

Standards Link: Life Science: Plants have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction.



You've Got to Hand It to Bananas

Bananas grow in clusters called **hands**. There can be 15-30 bananas on each hand. Each banana is called a **finger**. The word *banan* is Arabic for finger.

Did you know?

Bananas are one of the fruits that contain all the major vitamins: A, B1, B2, B6 and C.



A $38 - 17 + 6 =$

Complete the math problems at left. Then match the answer with each of these banana facts.

B $156 + 27 + 144 =$

It is said that Alexander the Great discovered bananas in his conquest of India in the year **B** B.C.

The average American eats about **A** pounds of bananas every year.

C $18 + 18 + 14 =$

A banana plant produces from **C** to **D** bananas at a time.

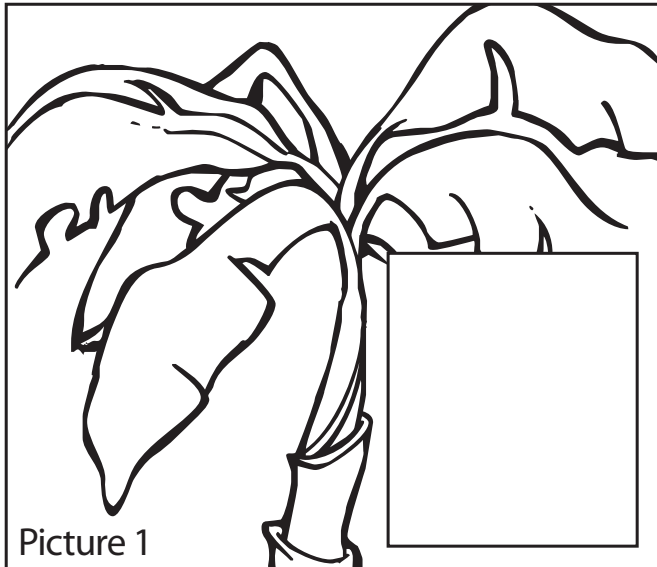
D $75 + 42 + 33 =$

How many bananas can you find on these pages?

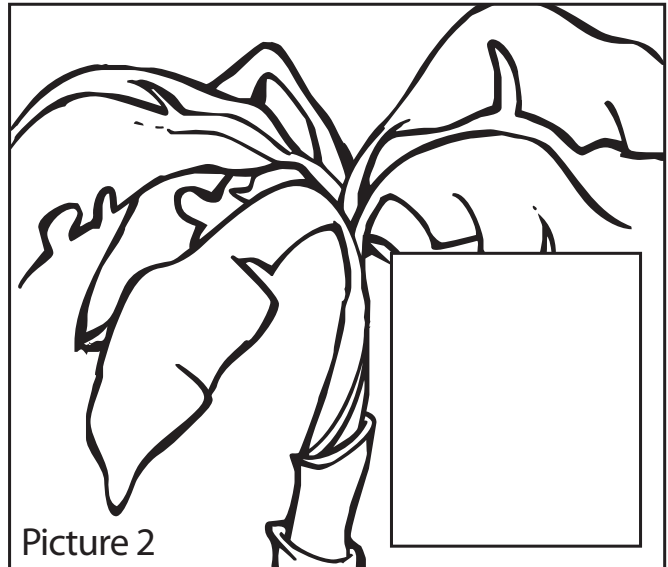
Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Compute sums and differences.



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Picture 1



Picture 2

Which way will the bananas grow?

When a banana plant is ready to fruit, it shoots out a long stalk from which the fruit will grow.

Which way do you think the bananas will grow? Draw what you think on Picture 1. Then use the code to find out how bananas grow. Draw this on Picture 2.



E

A	B	C	E	H	I	L	N	O	P	T	U	W

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Monkey Match Game

All but one of these banana-loving monkeys has a match. Which one?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.



Name:

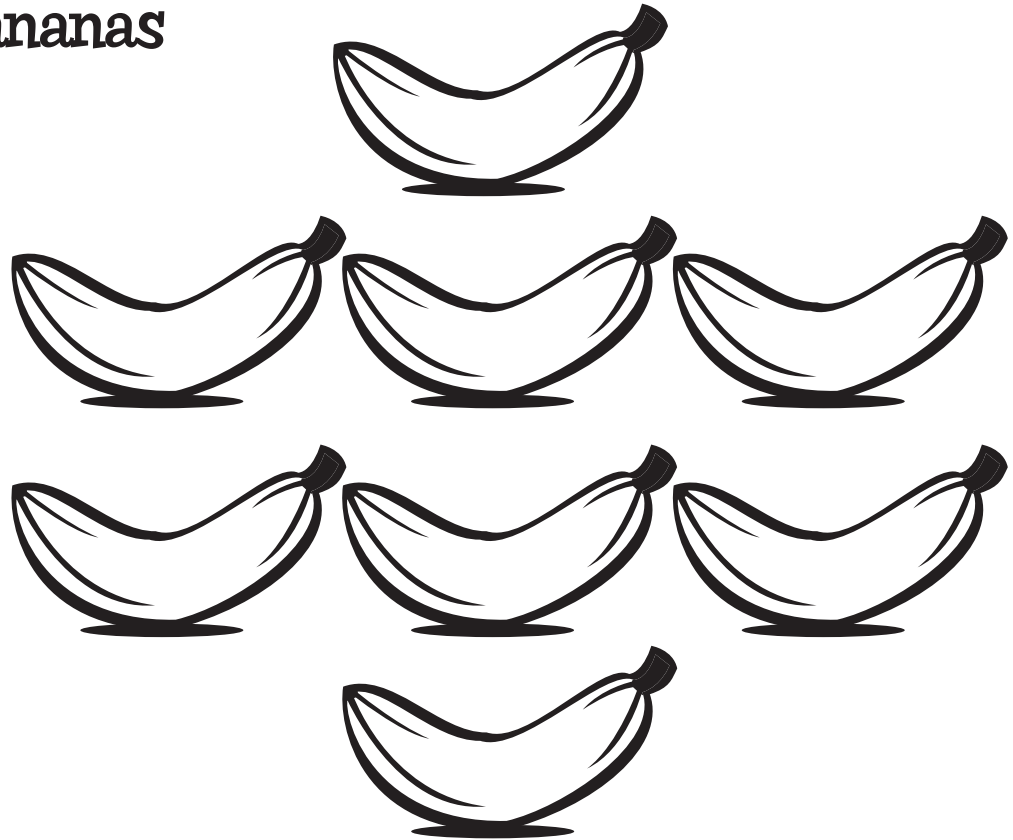
Puzzler



Baffling Bananas

Number the bananas 1 to 8. **But wait!** Numbers that come before or after each other may not be placed next to one another in any direction.

Hint: Cut out eight slips of paper, number them 1 to 8, and try arranging the numbers different ways.



Standards Link: Math Reasoning: Solve problems using a variety of strategies.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

NUTRITIOUS

The word **nutritious** means something that is healthy to eat.

Loaded with vitamins, bananas are amongst the most **nutritious** fruits you can eat.

Try to use the word **nutritious** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.



What is yellow on the outside and gray on the inside?

ANSWER: An elephant trying to disguise himself as a banana.



Name:

Kid Scoop Jumbo Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.
Then see how many of these words you can find in today's newspaper.

BANANAS

CLUSTERS

TREAT

MONKEY

WAIT

HERB

VITAMINS

ALEXANDER

TRUNK

FINGER

PEEL

ARABIC

HUNT

FRUIT

ROW

T	R	E	D	N	A	X	E	L	A
N	R	S	R	E	T	S	U	L	C
U	E	K	A	P	E	E	L	I	F
H	G	D	S	N	W	M	C	O	R
K	N	U	R	T	A	O	O	H	U
V	I	T	A	M	I	N	S	E	I
P	F	E	K	I	T	K	A	R	T
A	R	A	B	I	C	E	D	B	S
T	W	O	R	G	C	Y	O	S	O

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words.
Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



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Answers

Page 1

Complete the math problems

$38 - 17 + 6 = 27$

$156 + 27 + 144 = 327$

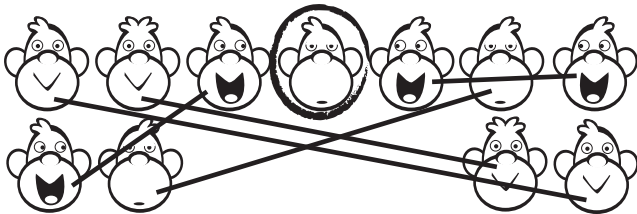
$18 + 18 + 14 = 50$

$75 + 42 + 33 = 150$

Page 2

Which way will the bananas grow?

Each banana will point up



Page 3

Bananas

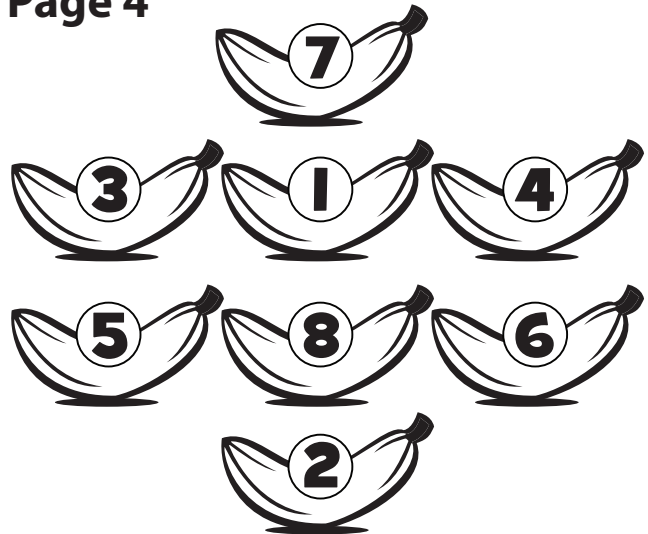
Bananas are packed with power! Low in fat and high in potassium, bananas are a great energy food.

Bananas that are still green can be ripened more quickly by placing them in a brown paper sack overnight.

Bananas are not grown commercially in the continental United States. They are grown in Latin and North American countries like Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras, Panama and Guatemala.

Most of the countries listed are Central American. Colombia and Ecuador are South American.

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