

Patterns in Problem Solving

Directions: Solve each problem by making a table.

Example: Gary ate 1 marshmallow on Monday, 3 marshmallows on Tuesday and 9 marshmallows on Wednesday. If this pattern continues, how many marshmallows will Gary eat on Friday?

Use a table to solve this problem.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Marshmallows eaten	1	3	9		

Note the pattern: Gary is eating 3 times as many marshmallows each day. Therefore, on Thursday he will eat 27 and on Friday he will eat 81.

The completed table would look like this:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Marshmallows eaten	1	3	9	27	81

The answer would be: Gary will eat 81 marshmallows on Friday.

1. Ruby had 1 rock in her rock collection on Monday, 3 rocks on Tuesday, 6 rocks on Wednesday and 10 rocks on Thursday. If this pattern continues, how many rocks will she have on Saturday?

Name _____

Date _____

2. The Girl Scouts are giving away cookies to people at the mall. The first customer got 4 free cookies. The second customer got 8 free cookies. The third customer got 12 free cookies. The fourth customer got 16 free cookies. If this pattern continues, how many free cookies will the seventh customer get?

3. Jenny is giving away her seashell collection. In January she gave away 60 seashells. In February, she gave away 45 seashells. In March, she gave away 30 seashells. If this pattern continues, what month will she have 0 seashells left to give?