

More Martian Math



Problem one:

How much would you weigh on Mars?

Well, you need to know how much you weigh on Earth. Then you multiply that by .39 -- that is your answer. (If you can't multiply by decimals, just divide your weight by 3 to find the approximate answer).

Example:

Nathan weighs 96 pounds on Earth. If he multiplies by .39 he discovers that he would weigh 37.4 pounds on Mars. If he does it the easier way and divides by three, he would find that he weighs approximately 32 pounds on Mars.

Well, how much would you weigh? (We need to know so that we can make your spacesuit fit.)

Problem two:

How old are you on Mars? (We have to have the birthdays figured out for the trip.)

You can do it. One Mars year equals 687 Earth days. First, figure out how old you are in Earth days. You do that by taking your age and multiplying by 365. It will be a big number. Then you divide by 687. Shouldn't you be in kindergarten or something?

Example: Poor Nathan. He is nine years old. Nine times 365 equals 3285. He is a smart kid though and he does not want me to forget the leap year days and the days since his last birthday. If we add those we get 3562. Now divide that by 687. He's only five! So, how old are you on Mars?



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Problem three:

How many meals did you eat on the way to Mars?

This one is as easy as pie. Assume that you left on January 1, 1999. You arrive on October 1, 1999 right after breakfast. You are healthy and never skip a meal; that makes three meals a day. Figure out the number of days and multiply by....

Problem four:

Brain drain cool cruel math:

Time to call home! Write a short short conversation that you would have with someone at home as you call from Mars. Write it below. Now, how long would it take to chat it up? Well, when the Mars Rover went up, it took about 10 minutes for the radio signal to travel between Mars and Earth. So, you say "Hi!" and wait 10 minutes for your Earthling friend to hear your greeting and wait another 10 minutes to hear what your friend says. How long will your conversation below take?

