

LESSON Introduction to Algebra

8 Challenge: What Does Algebra Mean?

About 1,200 years ago, Arab people invented the branch of mathematics called *algebra*. In fact, the word *algebra* comes from the Arabic word *al-jabr*. What does that word mean?

Solve each division equation below. Then in the box at the bottom of the page, write the variable in the blank above its value. When you have solved all the equations you will have found the answer to the question.

1. $\frac{s}{4} = 6$

8. $\frac{k}{9} = 5$

2. $\frac{b}{3} = 5$

9. $6 = \frac{u}{2}$

3. $9 = \frac{p}{4}$

10. $3 = \frac{n}{7}$

4. $i \div 2 = 7$

11. $o \div 8 = 4$

5. $8 = \frac{a}{6}$

12. $\frac{r}{7} = 5$

6. $11 = f \div 2$

13. $t \div 9 = 3$

7. $\frac{h}{7} = 6$

14. $8 = e \div 1$

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