Name_____

Help Santa Solve his Christmas Problem

Santa looked outside to see how many of his reindeer and elves were helping to finish up the final touches before he left for his trip around the world. But, when he looked outside, he could only see their legs. He couldn't figure out how many elves and reindeer were outside. He counted 50 legs.

Santa wants you to help him figure out how many reindeer and how many elves are helping out.

<u>Remember</u> to show how you figure out the problem and print your answer in a sentence.

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Help Santa Solve his Christmas Problem

ANSWER

Question: Santa looked outside to see how many of his reindeer and elves were helping to finish up the final touches before he left for his trip around the world. But, when he looked outside, he could only see their legs. He couldn't figure out how many elves and reindeer were outside. He counted 50 legs. He wants you to help him figure out how many reindeer and how many elves are helping out. *Remember to show how you figure out the problem and print your answer in a sentence.*

Students will usually use trial and error to determine their answer. It is important to ask them to reason and explain the process they used to arrive at their answer. When they draw pictures, they can use circles or squares with dots or x's to represent the legs. Students should be encouraged to use a T-Chart, one side represents the reindeer and the other side represents the elves.

There are 9 reindeer (36 legs)

There are 7 elves (14 legs)

50 legs in all.

Sample T Chart: When a child uses a T-Chart, they can start to pair the combinations to determine the answer.

Elves		Reindeer	
1	2	1	4
2	4	2	8
3	6	3	12
4	8	4	16
5	10	5	20
6	12	6	24
7	14	7	28
8	16	8	32
9	18	9	36

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