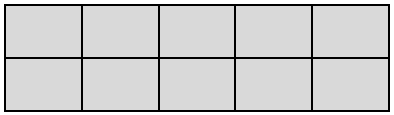
Using Arrays for Multiplication

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics

When you build an **array**, you put **objects** into **equal** rows. Every row must have the same number of objects in it. Sometimes looking at an array can help you understand multiplication facts that you may be having trouble remembering.



This is an array that shows two rows with five squares in each row. Both of the rows have an equal number of squares: 5. Mathematicians, even students, like you, have some rules to follow whenever they do math. One of those rules is about what the order of the numbers mean when you **multiply**. The number of groups, sets, or rows always comes first. The number of things in each group, set, or row comes second. (Even though you would still get the same answer if you did it the other way around.)

It is important for math to have a common meaning so people can understand it. People all around the world would agree that this array shows 2 x 5, two equal rows of five. Can you see it?

Name:_____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is an array? _____

_____

2) If you are making an array, is it okay to have one row of six and one row of seven? _____

_____

3) Why do the number of sets, groups or rows have to come first?_____

_____

_____

4) If you want to make an array to show 5 x 4, how many rows will you need?_____

_____

5) Draw an array for 3 x 2.