Problem Solving:
Missing or Extra Information

Some problems contain too much or too little information. If a problem has missing information, you cannot solve it. If a problem has extra information, you need to figure out what information is needed to solve the problem.

Step 1: Read and Understand

Ramon is 6 feet tall. The average male giraffe is 3 times as tall as Ramon and weighs about 1,800 pounds. How tall is the average male giraffe?

To solve this problem, you need to find how tall the average male giraffe is.

Step 2: Plan and Solve

Decide which information you need to solve the problem and what is extra information.

You need to know how tall Ramon is to find the height of the average male giraffe. You do not need the weight of the giraffe to answer the question. Multiply 3 by Ramon's height.

$$3 \times 6 = 18$$

The average male giraffe is about 18 feet tall.

Nora has a collection of 14 stuffed animals. Her collection includes bears, lions, cats, and penguins. Mindy has twice as many stuffed animals as Nora.

1. Do you have enough information to find out how many stuffed animals Mindy has? Explain.

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2. What information did you not use to solve this problem?

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3. How many stuffed animals does Mindy have?

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