

Fruit Bundle Mystery

PLAYER SHEET - no solutions | US Letter | v1.0.0

2-6 players, with an adult host | Suggested ages 9-12 | Plan 20-30 minutes

Two fruit baskets seem to make a simple bargain, but combining their selling rates can lose tokens. Your group acts as a pretend stall team and reconstructs every batch. This is a paper arithmetic game using fictional tokens, with no purchase or money required.

Set up and play

One player sheet per team, pencils and an eraser. Print in black and white at 100% / actual size. No cutting, folding, props or account required. Keep the host guide separate.

1. Basket A contains 30 pretend oranges bought at 2 oranges per token. Basket B contains 30 bought at 3 per token.
2. The stall sells all 60 oranges in groups of 5 for 2 tokens per group. There are no other costs, leftovers or partial sales.
3. Keep quantities, group prices and total tokens in separate columns. Do not add unit rates unless the quantities used justify it.

Warm-up: what did the fruit cost?

Find the cost of each basket and the combined cost.

Round 1: count the sale groups

All 60 oranges sell in groups of 5 for 2 tokens. How many groups, how much revenue, and what gain or loss?

Round 2: follow both baskets

For each of the first 10 sale groups, take 2 oranges from A and 3 from B. What remains after these 10 groups, and what did those remaining oranges originally cost?

Final: repair only the last two groups

Keep the first 10 groups at 2 tokens each. The last 10 oranges form two more groups of 5. Charge the same price for both final groups. What price per group recovers exactly the original 25-token cost? Half-token prices are allowed in this pretend game.

Finish together

Finish by explaining the final repair in plain words: equal basket quantities are not the same as selling two oranges from A and three from B in every group.

Mechanism reference: Project Gutenberg 49137, THE COSTERMONGER'S PUZZLE.. New session instructions and examples.

Age and time are planning estimates. No child playtest or physical print trial is claimed.