

Which Is the Better Value?

MAKING MONEY DECISIONS • GRADES 4-5 • Financial Literacy

Name: _____

Date: _____

A lower price does not always mean a better value. Compare how much you receive and what the choices cost before deciding.

Maze Market Value Board

COMPARE THE AMOUNT AND THE PRICE

ITEM	CHOICE A	CHOICE B
Trail Mix	Small bag: 6 oz for \$3.00	Large bag: 12 oz for \$5.40
Juice Boxes	Pack of 4 for \$3.20	Pack of 8 for \$5.60
Notebooks	2 notebooks for \$3.50	4 notebooks for \$6.40
Granola Bars	Box of 5 for \$4.00	Box of 10 for \$7.50

VALUE TIP: When the amounts can be made equal, compare what each equal amount would cost.

1. Paula needs 8 juice boxes. She could buy two packs of 4 or one pack of 8. Which choice costs less, and how much does she save?

2. Michelle wants 12 ounces of trail mix. Compare the cost of two small bags with one large bag. Which is the better value for the same amount?

3. Heather needs 4 notebooks. Compare buying two 2-packs with buying one 4-pack. How much less does the better choice cost?

4. Brandye needs exactly 10 granola bars. She can buy two boxes of 5 or one box of 10. Which choice should she make if she wants to spend less? Show both totals.

5. Jason sees that the large trail-mix bag costs \$2.40 more than the small bag. He says, "The small bag is always the better deal because it costs less." What important information is he ignoring?

6. Melissa has \$7.00 and needs at least 8 juice boxes. Which option on the value board meets her need and leaves the most money? How much remains?

7. Kevin needs 20 granola bars for a team snack. He may buy four boxes of 5 or two boxes of 10. Find both totals. Which plan saves money, and how much?

8. A shopper says, "The larger package is always the better value." Use the value board to decide whether that rule is safe to use without checking the prices. Explain what a smart shopper should compare.

Answer Key - Better Value

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- Paula needs 8 juice boxes. She could buy two packs of 4 or one pack of 8. Which choice costs less, and how much does she save?**
Answer: Two packs of 4 cost \$6.40. One pack of 8 costs \$5.60. The 8-pack costs \$0.80 less.
- Michelle wants 12 ounces of trail mix. Compare the cost of two small bags with one large bag. Which is the better value for the same amount?**
Answer: Two 6-oz bags cost \$6.00. One 12-oz bag costs \$5.40. The large bag is the better value and saves \$0.60.
- Heather needs 4 notebooks. Compare buying two 2-packs with buying one 4-pack. How much less does the better choice cost?**
Answer: Two 2-packs cost \$7.00. One 4-pack costs \$6.40. The 4-pack costs \$0.60 less.
- Brandye needs exactly 10 granola bars. She can buy two boxes of 5 or one box of 10. Which choice should she make if she wants to spend less? Show both totals.**
Answer: Two boxes of 5 cost \$8.00. One box of 10 costs \$7.50. The 10-count box costs \$0.50 less.
- Jason sees that the large trail-mix bag costs \$2.40 more than the small bag. He says, "The small bag is always the better deal because it costs less." What important information is he ignoring?**
Answer: He is ignoring how much trail mix each bag contains. The large bag contains twice as much (12 oz versus 6 oz), so total price alone does not show the better value.
- Melissa has \$7.00 and needs at least 8 juice boxes. Which option on the value board meets her need and leaves the most money? How much remains?**
Answer: One 8-pack costs \$5.60 and leaves \$1.40. Two 4-packs cost \$6.40 and leave \$0.60. The 8-pack leaves the most money.
- Kevin needs 20 granola bars for a team snack. He may buy four boxes of 5 or two boxes of 10. Find both totals. Which plan saves money, and how much?**
Answer: Four 5-count boxes cost \$16.00. Two 10-count boxes cost \$15.00. Two boxes of 10 save \$1.00.
- A shopper says, "The larger package is always the better value." Use the value board to decide whether that rule is safe to use without checking the prices. Explain what a smart shopper should compare.**
Answer: No. A shopper should compare both the amount received and the price rather than assuming package size alone proves value. On this board the larger choices happen to cost less for equal amounts, but prices should still be checked each time.