

Dad's Cookies

Dad bakes some cookies. He eats one hot out of the oven and leaves the rest on the counter to cool. He goes outside to read.



Dave comes into the kitchen and finds the cookies. Since he is hungry, he eats half a dozen of them.

Then Kate wanders by, feeling rather hungry as well. She eats half as many as Dave did.

Jim and Eileen walk through next, and each of them eats one third of the remaining cookies.

Hollis comes into the kitchen and eats half of the cookies that are left on the counter.

Last of all, Mom eats just one cookie.

Dad comes back inside, ready to pig out. "Hey!" he exclaims. "There is only one cookie left!"

How many cookies did Dad bake in all?

The Math Forum's Problems of the Week provide non-routine constructed response problems. The Math Fundamentals problems target concepts typically learned in grades 3-5. Memberships and mentoring options are available at the student, teacher, school, and district levels.