Missing Factors

A variable is a letter or symbol that stands for an unknown number.
You can use a variable to stand for a missing factor.

$2 \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 10$ $2 \times b = 10$
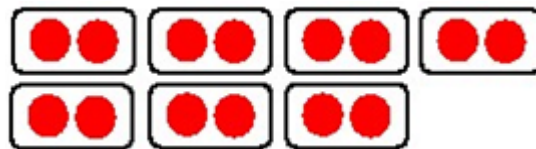
To solve for the variable, use counters.

Arrange the counters into equal groups and count how many groups are formed.

Find the missing factor.
$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \textbf{2 = 14.}$ $b \times 2 = 14$

Arrange 14 counters into equal groups of 2.

There are 7 groups of 2 counters.
So, 7 is the missing factor, or variable: $7 \times 2 = 14$.

Examples:

A- Find the missing Factor.

1) **6** x 3 =18   2) 6 x **8** = 48

3) 8 x **7** = 56   4) **4** x 7 = 28

5) **6** x 6 = 36   6) 3 x 6 = 2 x **9**

7) 3 x **3** = 9   8) **9** x 8 = 72

My Real Life

A) There are 18 scoops of ice cream. If there are 6 bowls, how many scoops will go in each bowl?

$6 \times s = 18$

$s = 3$ scoops

B) There are 32 children and 8 slides on the playground. If the students are divides evenly into groups, how many can play on each slide?

$8 \times g = 32$

$g = 4$ groups