

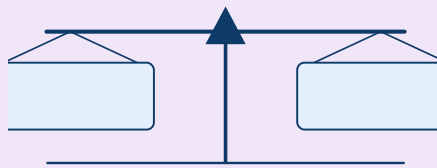
FINDING A ON THE BALANCE BEAM

- 1 Look at the number sentence $a + 4 = 9$
- 2 The letter a is the unknown we must find to level the beam
- 3 Slide weights until both sides match: try $5 + 4$
- 4 Check: $5 + 4 = 9$ so the beam hangs level
- 5 a stands for 5 and we could rewrite it as $\square + 4 = 9$

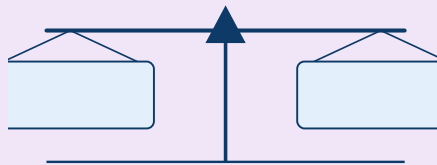
WARM-UP

Use the balance scales to make both sides equal for each sentence.

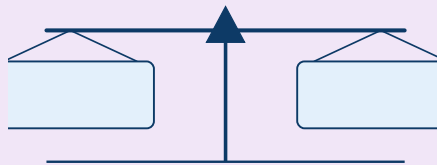
1. Place weights to balance $a + 1 = 8$ and mark what a must be



2. Set the scales for $\square + 3 = 9$ and show the matching weight in the box



3. Balance the beam for $10 = c + 4$ and write the value of c



PRACTICE

- 1 The teacher puts some crayons in a tray and adds **3** more to make **9** crayons ready for art.
 $\square + 3 = \underline{\quad}$

? ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER

Always, sometimes or never true? Write A, S or N.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. A box and a letter used in the same place stand for the same unknown number. ☐ | c. You can rewrite a letter sentence using a box and keep every number the same. ☐ |
| b. The letter in a number sentence always stands for the number 6. ☐ | d. The unknown number is shown only as a letter and never as a box. ☐ |