

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wise Advisor

In a far, distant land, a great queen lived in a huge castle at the edge of a forest. She needed someone who could take care of her treasure of gold coins.	16 30 32
The queen had so many gold coins that they filled a secret room. The coins were kept on shelves there, stacked into neat piles, all of which were exactly the same height. The queen wanted to find the wisest person in her kingdom to be in charge of her treasure.	45 59 73 82
How would the queen find the wisest person? “I shall make each of my advisors take a test,” she announced.	96 102
First, the queen spent a month counting every one of her coins to see how many she had. Then she decreed that all of her advisors would take a turn counting the coins. The one who could count them accurately in the fastest time would be put in charge of her treasure.	117 132 145 154
Each advisor took a turn, and each took a long time. Days and weeks passed. One day, a very young advisor from the edge of the forest came to take his turn. The queen led him into the secret room. He studied the piles of coins for a moment and then counted one stack of coins.	168 183 199 210
A moment later, he told the queen exactly how many coins she had. From that day on, the young advisor was in charge of the queen’s treasure.	224 237
How did the young advisor know how many coins there were without counting them all?	249 252
The young man looked at the stacks of coins and saw that they were all equal. He counted the number of coins in one stack, then multiplied that number by the number of stacks in the room and got the answer.	267 280 293

