Sometimes when you solve a problem you need an *exact*

*answer.* Other times you need an *estimate.* Deciding if you need an exact answer or an estimate will help you solve the problem. Let’s try an example.

In an hour’s time, Leah can make 17 greeting cards. Steven can make 9 cards in the same amount of time. About how many more cards can Leah make than Steven?

**Reteach**

**Step 4**

Check Look back at the problem. Since it says “about how many,” you know that making an estimate is the correct plan. Notice that since 17 – 9 = 8, your estimate is very close to the exact answer!

**Step 3**

Solve First, round each number.

Leah 17 cards → 20 cards

Steven 9 cards → 10 cards

Now, subtract both of your rounded numbers. This will give you a final estimate.

20 – 10 = 10

So, Leah can make about 10 more greeting cards in an hour than Steven.

**Step 2**

Plan Do you need an *exact* answer to this question?

No. When you see *about*, you know that an

*estimated* answer is needed.

**Step 1**

Understand What facts do you know?

• Leah makes 17 cards in an hour.

• Steven makes 9 cards in an hour.

**Grade 3 • Chapter 3** Subtraction

**21**

**Estimate or Exact Answer**

*Problem Solving: Estimate or Exact Answer*

**Lesson 3**

Name Date

Raul cut 3 pieces of fabric. One piece was 12 inches long and

another piece was 41 inches long. What length does Raul need to cut the third piece to have enough fabric for a project that needs 67 inches of fabric? Explain.

There are enough seats for 55 students on the bus. Can all

35 boys and 28 girls ride the bus? How many more seats are needed for all the students?

The Littleton Public Library gets 37 new magazines and

45 new books every week. In 3 weeks, about how many more books than magazines will they receive?

On Saturday, Zachary’s sister worked in the garden and

planted 24 flowers. On Sunday, she planted 15 flowers. How many more flowers did she plant on Saturday than on Sunday?

**Reteach**

12 minutes

Friday

17 minutes

Wednesday

24 minutes

Monday

**Grade 3 • Chapter 3** Subtraction

**22**

About how many more minutes did Katie practice her

guitar on Monday than on Friday?

**5.**

**4.**

**3.**

**2.**

**1.**

**Tell whether an *estimate* or an *exact* answer is needed.**

**Then solve.**

*(continued)*

*Problem Solving*

**Lesson 3**

Name Date