SOLVING TWO STEP EQUATIONS

Now we'll solve some more complicated equations and inequalities - ones that have twostep solutions, because they involve two operations. Solving equations is like solving a puzzle. Just keep working through the steps until you get the variable you're looking for alone on one side of the equation. This is called isolating the variable.

Here's a two-step equation. Let's start with the variable x, and describe, step by step, what is being done to x in an equation.

3x - 10 = 14	Equation	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
3x	First, x is Multiplied by three.	
3x - 10	Next, ten is Subtracted from the term 3x.	
3x - 10 = 14	We get a result of 14.	
Start with x Result is 14.	> Multiply by 3> Subtract 10>	8 = 3 24 +10 14 +10 14

Solving an equation is like working the equation backwards to discover what number will work in the equation. Now let's work backwards and use <u>inverse operations</u> to undo all the steps. We can start with the result of 14.

14	start with result. (undo operations to remo	
4 + 10	Next, working backwards, we can add 10, which is the inverse of Subtracting. 10.	
4 + 10	Now we divide by 3, since that's the inverse of multiplying by 3.	
24 = 8 3	We get an answer of 8.	

Start with result of 14 -> Add 10 -> Divide by 3 Answer is 8.

Do you see how it's important when solving an equation to "undo" all the steps in the correct order? No matter how many steps are in the original equation, you can work backwards and apply the inverse operations, in order, to arrive at the solution!

Solving a to

Solving a two-step equation requires the same procedure(s) as a one-step equation.

However, the order in which the procedures are done makes a difference.

Use reverse order of operations to "solve"

Do the inverse operation for addition or subtraction first.

2 Do the inverse operation of multiplication or division last.









