

Birthday Balloons



Jenny's birthday party was a gala affair. Jenny and her guests ate cake and ice cream, played games, and admired the pretty balloons decorating the house. There were so many balloons, in fact, that Jenny had enough for each guest to take one home after the party. Sam was the first to leave the party. Jenny and her mom were busy with other guests, so Jenny told Sam to grab a balloon on his way out. **Sam really liked balloons, so instead of taking one balloon, he took $\frac{1}{6}$ of the balloons.**

Maggie was the next to leave. She was also told to take a balloon. But Maggie had seen Sam leave, so she thought she could take the same number of balloons as Sam. **Maggie carefully chose $\frac{1}{5}$ of the remaining balloons.**

Johnny left right after Maggie. He was also told to take one balloon. But he knew that Sam and Maggie had taken more than one. So Johnny counted out what he thought was his fair share. **He took $\frac{1}{4}$ of the balloons that were left.**

When Lucy left, she called to Jenny's mom that she would grab a balloon on her way out. **When Lucy looked at the balloons that were left, however, she decided she wanted $\frac{1}{3}$ of them.** So she counted out the balloons and skipped out the door.

Paul left soon after Lucy. **He took half of the remaining balloons. Only 3 balloons were left for the rest of the children at the party.**

How many balloons did Jenny start with? _____

Name _____