Combining Like Terms

In your baggie should be several squares of various colours. Instead of referring to them by colour, we are going to abbreviate the colours and refer to them by the first letter of their colour:

Purple: P  Beige: B  Yellow: Y  Green: G

Put 3 purples and 4 beiges in your workspace. This is represented like so: 3P + 4B.

Put the following blocks in your space. Write down the representation using the abbreviations.

1) 2 yellows and 5 greens _________________

2) 4 purples, 3 greens, and 2 yellows _________________

3) 1 yellow and 2 purples _________________

4) 2 beiges, 3 purples, 3 greens, and 6 yellows _________________

Describe the following equations in words.

5) 4P + 5Y ____________________________________

6) 2B + 4Y + 3G _____________________________________

7) 6P + 4G + 5B _____________________________________

8) 2P + 3B + Y + 2G ____________________________________

In the following problems, we are going to combine colours that are alike.

**Example:** 4P + 2Y + 3Y + 2P = 6P + 5Y  (When combining everything together, we have 6 purples and 5 yellows.) Remember “+” means “put together” and “−” means “take away”.

9) 2Y + 4B + 3Y + B

10) 4P + 5B − 2B + 2G

11) 3G + 4P + 2G

12) 5B + 2P + 4P − 3P

13) 6Y + 4G − 2Y − G

14) Y + G + Y + P