## **Investigating Algebra Activity: Modeling Equations with Variables on Both Sides**

For use before the lesson "Solve Equations with Variables on Both Sides"

Materials: algebra tiles

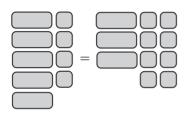
## QUESTION

How can you use algebra tiles to solve an equation with a variable on both the left and the right side of the equation?

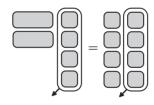
**EXPLORE** Solve an equation with variables on both sides

Solve 
$$5x + 4 = 3x + 8$$
.

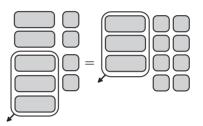
**STEP 1** Model 5x + 4 = 3x + 8using algebra tiles.



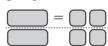
**STEP 3** To isolate the *x*-tiles, subtract four 1-tiles from each side.



**STEP 2** You want to have *x*-tiles on only one side of the equation, so subtract three x-tiles from each side.



**STEP 4** There are two x-tiles, so divide the x-tiles and 1-tiles into two equal groups. So, x = 2.



Use algebra tiles to model and solve the equation.

**1.** 
$$4x + 3 = 3x + 7$$

**3.** 
$$5x + 9 = 8x + 6$$

**2.** 
$$2x + 8 = 11 + x$$

**4.** 
$$7x + 6 = 9x + 2$$

**5.** Copy and complete the equations and explanations.

$$2x + 19 = 7x + 4$$

$$2x + 19 - ? = 7x + 4 - ?$$

$$19 = ? + 4$$

$$19 - ? = 5x + 4 - ?$$

$$? = 5x$$

Original equation

Subtract ? from each side.

Simplify.

Subtract \_\_?\_ from each side.

Simplify.

Divide each side by \_\_?\_ and simplify.