

# Caterpillar Problem – Student Thinking

Student 1

Answer: 30

Hand-drawn caterpillars and leaves. To the right, there are calculations:  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  repeated 12 times, and  $2 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 = 30$ .

Student 2

Answer: 30

caterpillars	leaves
2	5
2	5
2	5
2	5
2	5
2	5
+2	+5
12	30

Student 3

Answer: 30

If it takes 5 days for two caterpillars, you just count by fives, until you come to half of 12. The number is six, and then you multiply  $5 \times 6$ , and it equals 30.

Student 4

Answer: 30 leaves

leaves	5	10	15	20	25	30
caterpillars	2	4	6	8	10	12

Student 5

Answer: 30 leaves

Hand-drawn caterpillars with arrows pointing to leaves. The calculation  $2 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 = 30$  is written.

Student 6

Answer: 30

Hand-drawn caterpillars and leaves. The calculation  $2 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 = 30$  is written.

Student 7

Answer: 60

5 Leaves  
 $\times 12$  caterpillars  


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 60 Leaves for caterpillars

Student 8

Answer: 15 caterpillars

They added 10 caterpillars, and I added 10 leaves.

Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities, in Mathematics  
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