

Subject: Humor - Evolution in the teaching of mathematics in American schools

Last week I purchased a burger at Burger King for \$1.58. The countergirl took my \$2 and I was digging for my change when I pulled 8 cents from my pocket and gave it to her.

She stood there, holding the nickel and 3 pennies, while looking at the screen on her register.

I sensed her discomfort and told her to just give me two quarters, but she hailed the manager for help.

When he tried to explain the transaction to her, she stood there and cried.

Why do I tell you this? Because of the evolution in teaching math since the 1950s:

1. Teaching Math In 1950s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100.

His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price.

What is his profit?

2. Teaching Math In 1960s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100.

His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price,

or \$80. What is his profit?

3. Teaching Math In 1970s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100.

His cost of production is \$80.

Did he make a profit?

4. Teaching Math In 1980s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100.

His cost of production is \$80

and, therefore, his profit is \$20.

Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

5. Teaching Math In 1990s:

A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and, inconsiderate and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or the preservation of our woodlands.

He does this so he can make a profit of \$20.

What do you think of this way of making a living?

Topic for class participation after answering the question:

How did the birds and squirrels feel as the logger was cutting down their homes?

(Note: There are no wrong answers.)

6. Teaching Math In 2010:

Un hachero vende una carretada de maderapara \$100.

El costo de la producciones es \$80.

Es verdad.

Muchas gracias.