



Helping the Clerk

You've done a good job figuring out the cost of your supplies and deciding whether to buy them in camp or walk to town. Now you can try one of these activities.

1. Write a letter home that explains your financial decisions throughout the season. Tell your family these things.

- Your monthly pay;
- Your gross pay for the season;
- What items you bought and their prices;
- Why you needed the items;
- Where you bought the items and why you bought them there.

Give a complete account of your earnings and your take-home pay.

2. After calculating your take-home pay, figure out how much less you would get if you cash the check early at a saloon in town that charges a 10% fee. Also figure out how much less you would get if the saloon charges a fee of 7.5%, or 12.5%, or 15%.

3. Find a shortcut way to figure out 10% of your take-home pay. This shortcut might involve moving the decimal point, or dividing. Use your shortcut to find your take-home pay after the saloon takes a 10% fee. Once you know what 10% of your take-home pay is, and what 7.5% of your take-home pay is, what shortcuts could you use to find 12.5% and 15% of your take-home pay? Be ready to explain your shortcuts to your class.

4. Do you think it is fair for a saloon to charge a fee to cash a lumberjack's check early? Explain why or why not.