



Shashikala Lele is a Retired teacher from Public school in Florida, who taught math to 3rd 4th and 5th grade students. Following story is written by her students, while learning Math in school grade 3. Enclosed picture in the story is also drawn by those kids.

A Bird's Eye View



This story is about one bird and the view that its eye scans; but is it?

One lonely bird was flying high in the sky. The soaring bird's eye scanned the most beautiful planet of the solar system. The planet was Earth.

The beautiful planet 1 EARTH.

The earth was divided into 2 halves by an imaginary line-Equator.

Within each half there were(at least) 3 mountains.

On each mountain there were (at least) 4 villages.



In each village there were (at least) 5 streets.

On each street there were (at least) 6 houses.

Around each house there were 7 different type of trees.

Among each type there were 8 mango trees.

Each mango tree had at least 9 branches.

On each branch were hoisted 10 beautiful birds.

Within each group of 10 birds there was one bird that flew high in the sky; but how many birds were there?

Answer- There were 3,628,800 birds.

Let us put it into numbers. (Calculator will help you to multiply bigger numbers).

The Bird's eye saw 1 earth $1! = 1 \times 1 = 1$

The earth was divided into 2 parts by an imaginary line called equator- $2! = 2 \times 1 = 2$

Within each half there were 3 mountains- $3! = 3 \times 2! = 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$

On each mountain there were 4 villages- $4! = 4 \times 3! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$

Within each village there were 5 streets - $5! = 5 \times 4! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 120$

On each street there were 6 houses- $6! = 6 \times 5! = 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 720$

Around each house there were 7 kind of trees- $7! = 7 \times 6! = 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 5,040$

In each kind of trees there were 8 mango trees- $8! = 8 \times 7! = 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 40,320$

Each mango tree had 9 branches. $9! = 9 \times 8! = 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 362,880$

On each branch 10 birds were hoisted. $10! = 10 \times 9! = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 3,628,800$.

Mathematicians like to find short ways to say long numbers. So a mathematician would say, "there were 10! or '10 factorial' birds." By that he or she would mean 3,628,800 birds.

- **Sender: Shashikala Lele (Florida)**
