

Once upon a time in a beautiful place called Santa Fe, New Mexico, a prince named Harold and a princess named Autem moved into a new house¹. The princess loved beautiful gardens. She had always wanted to plant pumpkins in her garden. She bought a packet of pumpkin seeds containing thirty-six seeds. Harold wanted to create the perfect garden for his princess. He began to hoe (create) four rows in her garden. Will you please help the princess place her seeds in the garden to create her dream?

How many seeds can the princess place in each row so that each row has exactly the same number of seeds?

What if the prince had hoed 9 rows instead of 4 rows? How many seeds could be placed in each row if each has the exact same number of seeds?

The shape of each garden can be thought of as an array. To the left, draw an array with 4 rows. To the right draw an array with 9 rows.

Turn your paper to look at both arrays in different ways. What is the same and what is different about them?

¹ Suggested Grades: 3 – 4 Skills: Division of integers, repeated addition, arrays, drawings and number sense. Standards: 3.0.A.1, 3.0A.9, & 3.0.A.3; Objective 1: Demonstrate the commutativity of multiplication, and practice related facts by skip counting objects in array models. Objective 2: Find related multiplication facts by adding and subtracting equal groups in array models. Objective 3: Model the distributive property with arrays to decompose units as a strategy to multiply.