Lesson 6-7

Example 1 Use a Map Scale

MAPS On a map having a scale of 1 inch = 25 miles, the distance between two cities is 3.2 inches. What is the actual distance between the two cities?

Let d = the actual distance between the cities. Write and solve a proportion. Use the scale written as a fraction.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{map} \rightarrow \\ \text{actual} \rightarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \frac{\text{Scale}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{\text{Distance}}{3.2 \text{ inches}} \\ \text{d miles} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \text{map} \\ \leftarrow \text{actual} \end{array}$$

$$1 \cdot d = 25 \cdot 3.2 \quad \text{Cross products} \\ d = 80 \quad \text{Simplify.} \end{array}$$

The actual distance between the two cities is 80 miles.

Example 2 Use a Blueprint Scale

RECREATION CENTER On the blueprint of a new recreation center, each square has a side length of 3 centimeters. If the length of the new recreation center on the blueprint is 27 centimeters and the scale reads 3 cm = 15 feet, find the actual length of the recreation center.

The recreation center on the blueprint is 27 centimeters long.

Let ℓ = the actual length of the recreation center. Write and solve a proportion using the scale.

The length of the recreation center is 135 feet.

Example 3 Use a Scale Model

DOLLS Designers are creating a child-sized version of a doll's dress. If they use a scale of 10 inches = 1 inch and the doll's dress has a length of 4.5 inches, what is the length of the child-sized dress?

Write a proportion using the scale.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{doll} \rightarrow \\ \text{actual} \rightarrow \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \textbf{Scale} \\ \frac{10 \text{ inches}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{c \text{ inches}}{4.5 \text{ inches}} & \leftarrow \text{doll} \\ \leftarrow \text{ actual} \\ 10 \cdot 4.5 = 1 \cdot c & \text{Find the cross products.} \\ 45 = c & \text{Multiply.} \end{array}$$

The child-sized dress is 45 inches long.

Example 4 Find a Scale Factor

Find the scale factor of a blueprint if the scale is 1 inch = 7 feet.

Write the ratio of 1 inch to 7 feet in simplest form.

$$\frac{1 \text{ inch}}{7 \text{ feet}} = \frac{1 \text{ inch}}{84 \text{ inches}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{84}$$
Convert 7 feet to inches.

Cancel the units.

The scale factor is $\frac{1}{84}$. That is, each measure on the blueprint is $\frac{1}{84}$ the actual measure.