The students use what they know about multiplication, addition, subtraction and division to solve for the missing numbers.

For example, using problem A of the Christmas puzzles:


1. reindeer $x$ reindeer $=9$, so the reindeer would have to be 3 because $3 \times 3=9$.
2. reindeer + bulb $=12$, we already know that the reindeer $=3$, so the bulb would have to be 9 because $3+9=12$.
3. bulb / reindeer + reindeer, the answer is $9 / 3+3=6$

Those are the answers shown on the answer key: 3 (reindeer), 9 (bulb), 6 (answer to the final problem)


