THE GUMBALL HEIST

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Harold had been working for months to create magical gumballs that turn your tongue into colours of the rainbow. He was just admiring his first successful batch when a rival confectioner dashed into his laboratory and stole the lot!

As the bandit fled, he tripped and all of the precious gumballs scattered all over the laboratory floor. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the gumballs rolled down the drain. $\frac{1}{6}$ disappeared under the sugar spinning vat. Poor old Harold. He scrambled to pick up as many as he could but the bandit took off with half that remained!

Harold counted the magical gumballs he managed to save.

He put $\frac{1}{3}$ of these carefully away in a locked safe.
He took the 14 remaining gumballs home to try out on his kids.

How many gumballs did Harold have to begin with? Show your working and explain your reasoning.

Name _____