Momentum Conservation as a Guide to Thinking

Read from Lesson 2 of the Momentum and Collisions chapter at The Physics Classroom:

http://www.physicsclassroom.com/Class/momentum/u4l2dd.html

MOP Connection: Momentum and Collisions: sublevel 10

1. The following diagrams depict inelastic collisions between objects of different mass. For each case, determine the post-collision velocity (**v**') of the two *coupled* objects. Express **v**' in terms of **v**.



- 2. Complete the following verbal statements to illustrate your understanding of the effect of varying mass on the post-collision velocity.
 - a. If an object of mass m collides and velocity v collides inelastically with an object of mass 3m that is initially at rest, then the amount of total *system* mass in motion will increase by a factor of ______ and the velocity of the system will decrease by a factor of ______. The new velocity (v') will be ______ v.
 - b. If an object of mass m collides and velocity v collides inelastically with an object of mass 4m that is initially at rest, then the amount of total *system* mass in motion will increase by a factor of ______ and the velocity of the system will decrease by a factor of ______. The new velocity (v') will be ______ v.
 - c. If an object of mass 3m collides and velocity v collides inelastically with an object of mass 4m that is initially at rest, then the amount of total *system* mass in motion will increase by a factor of ______ and the velocity of the system will decrease by a factor of ______. The new velocity (v') will be ______ v.
 - d. If an object of mass 5m collides and velocity v collides inelastically with an object of mass 3m that is initially at rest, then the amount of total *system* mass in motion will increase by a factor of ______ and the velocity of the system will decrease by a factor of ______. The new velocity (v') will be ______ v.
- 3. Use proportional reasoning to determine the unknown quantity in the following collisions.

