Building Conceptual Understanding and Fluency Through Games

FOR THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS IN MATHEMATICS



Building Conceptual Understanding and Fluency Through Games

Developing fluency requires a balance and connection between conceptual understanding and computational proficiency. Computational methods that are over-practiced without understanding are forgotten or remembered incorrectly. Conceptual understanding without fluency can inhibit the problem solving process. — NCTM, *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, pg. 35

WHY PLAY GAMES?

People of all ages love to play games. They are fun and motivating. Games provide students with opportunities to explore fundamental number concepts, such as the counting sequence, one-to-one correspondence, and computation strategies. Engaging mathematical games can also encourage students to explore number combinations, place value, patterns, and other important mathematical concepts. Further, they provide opportunities for students to deepen their mathematical understanding and reasoning. Teachers should provide repeated opportunities for students to play games, and let the mathematical ideas emerge as they notice new patterns, relationships, and strategies. Games are an important tool for learning. Here are some advantages for integrating games into elementary mathematics classrooms:

- Playing games encourages strategic mathematical thinking as students find different strategies for solving problems and it deepens their understanding of numbers.
- Games, when played repeatedly, support students' development of computational fluency.
- Games provide opportunities for practice, often without the need for teachers to provide the problems.
 Teachers can then observe or assess students, or work with individual or small groups of students.
- Games have the potential to develop familiarity with the number system and with "benchmark numbers" – such as 10s, 100s, and 1000s and provide engaging opportunities to practice computation, building a deeper understanding of operations.
- Games provide a school to home connection. Parents can learn about their children's mathematical thinking by playing games with them at home.

BUILDING FLUENCY

Developing computational fluency is an expectation of the Common Core State Standards. Games provide opportunity for meaningful practice. The research about how students develop fact mastery indicates that drill techniques and timed tests do not have the power that mathematical games and other experiences have. Appropriate mathematical activities are essential building blocks to develop mathematically proficient students who demonstrate computational fluency (Van de Walle & Lovin, *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades K-3*, pg. 94). Remember, computational fluency includes efficiency, accuracy, and flexibility with strategies (Russell, 2000).

The kinds of experiences teachers provide to their students clearly play a major role in determining the extent and quality of students' learning. Students' understanding can be built by actively engaging in tasks and experiences designed to deepen and connect their knowledge. Procedural fluency and conceptual understanding can be developed through problem solving, reasoning, and argumentation (NCTM, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, pg. 21). Meaningful practice is necessary to develop fluency with basic number combinations and strategies with multi-digit numbers. Practice should be purposeful and should focus on developing thinking strategies and a knowledge of number relationships rather than drill isolated facts (NCTM, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, pg. 87). Do not subject any student to computation drills unless the student has developed an efficient strategy for the facts included in the drill (Van de Walle & Lovin, Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades K-3, pg. 117). Drill can strengthen strategies with which students feel comfortable – ones they "own" – and will help to make these strategies increasingly automatic. Therefore, drill of strategies will allow students to use them with increased efficiency, even to the point of recalling the fact without being conscious of using a strategy. Drill without an efficient strategy present offers no assistance (Van de Walle & Lovin, Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades K-3, pg. 117).

CAUTIONS

Sometimes teachers use games solely to practice number facts. These games usually do not engage children for long because they are based on students' recall or memorization of facts. Some students are quick to memorize, while others need a few moments to use a related fact to compute. When students are placed in situations in which recall speed determines success, they may infer that being "smart" in mathematics means getting the correct answer quickly instead of valuing the process of thinking. Consequently, students may feel incompetent when they use number patterns or related facts to arrive at a solution and may begin to dislike mathematics because they are not fast enough.

For students to become fluent in arithmetic computation, they must have efficient and accurate methods that are supported by an understanding of numbers and operations. "Standard" algorithms for arithmetic computation are one means of achieving this fluency.

 NCTM, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, pg. 35

Overemphasizing fast fact recall at the expense of problem solving and conceptual experiences gives students a distorted idea of the nature of mathematics and of their ability to do mathematics.

 Seeley, Faster Isn't Smarter: Messages about Math, Teaching, and Learning in the 21st Century, pg. 95

Computational fluency refers to having efficient and accurate methods for computing. Students exhibit computational fluency when they demonstrate flexibility in the computational methods they choose, understand and can explain these methods, and produce accurate answers efficiently.

 NCTM, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, pg. 152

Fluency refers to having efficient, accurate, and generalizable methods (algorithms) for computing that are based on well-understood properties and number relationships.

 NCTM, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, pg. 144

INTRODUCE A GAME

A good way to introduce a game to the class is for the teacher to play the game against the class. After briefly explaining the rules, ask students to make the class's next move. Teachers may also want to model their strategy by talking aloud for students to hear his/her thinking. "I placed my game marker on 6 because that would give me the largest number."

Games are fun and can create a context for developing students' mathematical reasoning. Through playing and analyzing games, students also develop their computational fluency by examining more efficient strategies and discussing relationships among numbers. Teachers can create opportunities for students to explore mathematical ideas by planning questions that prompt students to reflect about their reasoning and make predictions. Remember to always vary or modify the game to meet the needs of your leaners. Encourage the use of the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

HOLDING STUDENTS ACCOUNTABLE

While playing games, have students record mathematical equations or representations of the mathematical tasks. This provides data for students and teachers to revisit to examine their mathematical understanding.

After playing a game, have students reflect on the game by asking them to discuss questions orally or write about them in a mathematics notebook or journal:

- 1. What skill did you review and practice?
- 2. What strategies did you use while playing the game?
- 3. If you were to play the game a second time, what different strategies would you use to be more successful?
- 4. How could you tweak or modify the game to make it more challenging?

A Special Thank-You

The development of the NC Department of Public Instruction Document, *Building Conceptual Understanding and Fluency Through Games* was a collaborative effort with a diverse group of dynamic teachers, coaches, administrators, and NCDPI staff. We are very appreciative of all of the time, support, ideas, and suggestions made in an effort to provide North Carolina with quality support materials for elementary level students and teachers. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction appreciates any suggestions and feedback, which will help improve upon this resource. Please send all correspondence to **Kitty Rutherford** (kitty.rutherford@dpi.nc.gov) or **Denise Schulz** (denise.schulz@dpi.nc.gov)

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Fifth Grade – Standards

- 1. Developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions) Students apply their understanding of fractions and fraction models to represent the addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators as equivalent calculations with like denominators. They develop fluency in calculating sums and differences of fractions, and make reasonable estimates of them. Students also use the meaning of fractions, of multiplication and division, and the relationship between multiplication and division to understand and explain why the procedures for multiplying and dividing fractions make sense. (Note: this is limited to the case of dividing unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions.)
- 2. Extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operation Students develop understanding of why division procedures work based on the meaning of base-ten numerals and properties of operations. They finalize fluency with multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They apply their understandings of models for decimals, decimal notation, and properties of operations to add and subtract decimals to hundredths. They develop fluency in these computations, and make reasonable estimates of their results. Students use the relationship between decimals and fractions, as well as

- the relationship between finite decimals and whole numbers (i.e., a finite decimal multiplied by an appropriate power of 10 is a whole number), to understand and explain why the procedures for multiplying and dividing finite decimals make sense. They compute products and quotients of decimals to hundredths efficiently and accurately.
- 3. Developing understanding of volume Students recognize volume as an attribute of three-dimensional space. They understand that volume can be quantified by finding the total number of same-size units of volume required to fill the space without gaps or overlaps. They understand that a 1-unit by 1-unit by 1-unit cube is the standard unit for measuring volume. They select appropriate units, strategies, and tools for solving problems that involve estimating and measuring volume. They decompose three-dimensional shapes and find volumes of right rectangular prisms by viewing them as decomposed into layers of arrays of cubes. They measure necessary attributes of shapes in order to solve real world and mathematical problems.

MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES

- 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- 3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- 4. Model with mathematics.
- 5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
- 6. Attend to precision.
- 7. Look for and make use of structure.
- 8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

OPERATIONS AND ALGEBRAIC THINKING

Write and interpret numerical expressions.

- **5.0A.1** Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluate expressions with these symbols.
- **5.0A.2** Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them. For example, express the calculation "add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2" as $2 \times (8 + 7)$. Recognize that $3 \times (18932 + 921)$ is three times as large as 18932 + 921, without having to calculate the indicated sum or product.

Analyze patterns and relationships.

5.0A.3 Generate two numerical patterns using two given rules. Identify apparent relationships between corresponding terms. Form ordered pairs consisting of corresponding terms from the two patterns, and graph the ordered pairs on a coordinate plane. For example, given the rule "Add 3" and the starting number 0, and given the rule "Add 6" and the starting number 0, generate terms in the resulting sequences, and observe that the terms in one sequence are twice the corresponding terms in the other sequence. Explain informally why this is so.

NUMBER AND OPERATIONS IN BASE TEN

Understand the place value system.

- 5.NBT.1 Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left.
- **5.NBT.2** Explain patterns in the number of zeros of the product when multiplying a number by powers of 10, and explain patterns in the placement of the decimal point when a decimal is multiplied or divided by a power of 10. Use whole-number exponents to denote powers of 10.
- 5.NBT.3: Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths.
 - a. Read and write decimals to thousandths using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form, e.g., $347.392 = 3 \times 100 + 4 \times 10 + 7 \times 1 + 3 \times (1/10) + 9 \times (1/100) + 2 \times (1/1000)$.
 - b. Compare two decimals to thousandths based on meanings of the digits in each place, using >, =, and < symbols to record the results of comparisons.

5.NBT.4 Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place.

Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.

5.NBT.5 Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.

- 5.NBT.6 Find whole-number quotients of whole numbers with up to four-digit dividends and two-digit divisors, using strategies based on place value, the properties of operations, and/or the relationship between multiplication and division. Illustrate and explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.
- 5.NBT.7 Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to hundredths, using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction; relate the strategy to a written method and explain the reasoning used.

NUMBER AND OPERATIONS – FRACTIONS

Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.

- **5.NF.1** Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (including mixed numbers) by replacing given fractions with equivalent fractions in such a way as to produce an equivalent sum or difference of fractions with like denominators. For example, 2/3 + 5/4 = 8/12 + 15/12 = 23/12. (In general, a/b + c/d = (ad + bc)/bd.)
- 5.NF.2 Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole, including cases of unlike denominators, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. Use benchmark fractions and number sense of fractions to estimate mentally and assess the reasonableness of answers. For example, recognize an incorrect result 2/5 + 1/2 = 3/7, by observing that 3/7 < 1/2.</p>

Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.

5.NF.3 Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator $(a/b = a \div b)$. Solve word problems involving division of whole numbers leading to answers in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. For example, interpret 3/4 as the result of dividing 3 by 4, noting that 3/4 multiplied by 4 equals 3, and that when

- 3 wholes are shared equally among 4 people each person has a share of size 3/4. If 9 people want to share a 50-pound sack of rice equally by weight, how many pounds of rice should each person get? Between what two whole numbers does your answer lie?
- 5.NF.4 Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction or whole number by a fraction.
 - a. Interpret the product $(a/b) \times q$ as a parts of a partition of q into b equal parts; equivalently, as the result of a sequence of operations $a \times q \div b$. For example, use a visual fraction model to show $(2/3) \times 4 = 8/3$, and create a story context for this equation. Do the same with $(2/3) \times (4/5) = 8/15$. (In general, $(a/b) \times (c/d) = ac/bd$.)
 - b. Find the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths by tiling it with unit squares of the appropriate unit fraction side lengths, and show that the area is the same as would be found by multiplying the side lengths. Multiply fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles, and represent fraction products as rectangular areas.
- 5.NF.5: Interpret multiplication as scaling (resizing), by:
 - a. Comparing the size of a product to the size of one factor on the basis of the size of the other factor, without performing the indicated multiplication.
 - b. Explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction greater than 1 results in a product greater than the given number (recognizing multiplication by whole numbers greater than 1 as a familiar case); explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction less than 1 results in a product smaller than the given number; and relating the principle of fraction equivalence $a/b = (n \times a)/(n \times b)$ to the effect of multiplying a/b by 1.
- 5.NF.6 Solve real world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.
- 5.NF.7 Apply and extend previous understandings of division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions. (Note: Students able to multiply fractions in general can develop strategies to divide fractions in general, by reasoning about the relationship between multiplication and division. But division of a fraction by a fraction is not a requirement at this grade.)
 - a. Interpret division of a unit fraction by a non-zero whole number, and compute such quotients. For example, create a story context for $(1/3) \div 4$, and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient. Use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that $(1/3) \div 4 = 1/12$ because $(1/12) \times 4 = 1/3$.
 - b. Interpret division of a whole number by a unit fraction, and compute such quotients. For example, create a story context for $4 \div (1/5)$, and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient. Use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that $4 \div (1/5) = 20$ because $20 \times (1/5) = 4$.
 - c. Solve real world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions, e.g., by using visual fraction models and equations to represent the problem. For example, how much chocolate will each person get if 3 people share 1/2 lb of chocolate equally? How many 1/3-cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins?

MEASUREMENT AND DATA

Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system.

5.MD.1 Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given measurement system (e.g., convert 5 cm to 0.05 m), and use these conversions in solving multi-step, real world problems.

Represent and interpret data.

5.MD.2 Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit (1/2, 1/4, 1/8). Use operations on fractions for this grade to solve problems involving information presented in line plots. For example, given different measurements of liquid in identical beakers, find the amount of liquid each beaker would contain if the total amount in all the beakers were redistributed equally.

Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.

- **5.MD.3** Recognize volume as an attribute of solid figures and understand concepts of volume measurement.
 - a. A cube with side length 1 unit, called a "unit cube," is said to have "one cubic unit" of volume, and can be used to measure volume.
 - b. A solid figure which can be packed without gaps or overlaps using *n* unit cubes is said to have a volume of *n* cubic units.
- 5.MD.4 Measure volumes by counting unit cubes, using cubic cm, cubic in, cubic ft, and improvised units.
- **5.MD.5** Relate volume to the operations of multiplication and addition and solve real world and mathematical problems involving volume.
 - a. Find the volume of a right rectangular prism with whole-number side lengths by packing it with unit cubes, and show that the volume is the same as would be found by multiplying the edge lengths, equivalently by multiplying the height by the area of the base. Represent threefold whole-number products as volumes, e.g., to represent the associative property of multiplication.
 - b. Apply the formulas $V = I \times w \times h$ and $V = b \times h$ for rectangular prisms to find volumes of right rectangular prisms with wholenumber edge lengths in the context of solving real world and mathematical problems.
 - c. Recognize volume as additive. Find volumes of solid figures composed of two non-overlapping right rectangular prisms by adding the volumes of the non-overlapping parts, applying this technique to solve real world problems.

GEOMETRY

Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

- 5.G.1 Use a pair of perpendicular number lines, called axes, to define a coordinate system, with the intersection of the lines (the origin) arranged to coincide with the 0 on each line and a given point in the plane located by using an ordered pair of numbers, called its coordinates. Understand that the first number indicates how far to travel from the origin in the direction of one axis, and the second number indicates how far to travel in the direction of the second axis, with the convention that the names of the two axes and the coordinates correspond (e.g., x-axis and x-coordinate, y-axis and y-coordinate).
- 5.G.2 Represent real world and mathematical problems by graphing points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, and interpret coordinate values of points in the context of the situation.

Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.

- 5.G.3 Understand that attributes belonging to a category of two-dimensional figures also belong to all subcategories of that category. For example, all rectangles have four right angles and squares are rectangles, so all squares have four right angles.
- 5.G.4 Classify two-dimensional figures in a hierarchy based on properties.

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Operation Target

Building Fluency: creating equations and the use of parentheses.

Materials: digit cards (0-9) and a recording sheet per player

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. The cards are shuffled and placed face down in a stack.
- 2. The first player draws three cards.
- 3. The player decides how to arrange the three numbers and which operations to use to achieve a score equal to or as close the "target number" as possible for Round One.
- 4. The player then records the number sentence, using parentheses if necessary, in the space provided on their recording sheet
- 5. The numbers are written in the triangles and the chosen operations in the circles.
- 6. The player records the answer in the space provided and the difference in the "How Close?" column.
- 7. The cards are discarded to one side. These are reshuffled and used again if needed.
- 8. The other player has a turn.
- 9. The player who is closer to the target at the end of a round is the winner. This is indicated with a check mark.
- 10. If a round ends in a tie, both players record a win for that round.
- 11. The player who wins the greater number of rounds is the overall winner.

Variation/Extension: Students can use number tiles or dice (0-9). Students can make shorter or longer equations. Once students understand how this game works they can record the equation in their math notebook instead of using recording sheet.

Round	Number Sentence	Target	How Close?
1		5	
2		10	
3		20	
4		50	
5		60	

Round	Number Sentence	Target	How Close?
1	△ ○ △ ○ △ =		
2			
3	<u> </u>		
4	<u> </u>		
5	<u> </u>		

Round	Number Sentence	Target	How Close?
1	<u> </u>		
2	<u> </u>		
3			
4			
5	<u> </u>		

0	1	2	3
4	5	<u>6</u>	7
8	9	0	1
2	3	4	5
<u>6</u>	7	8	9
0	1	2	3
4	5	<u>6</u>	7
8	9		

Corn Shucks

Building Fluency: compare decimals to thousands

Materials: recording sheet, digit cards (or 0-9 die)

Number of Players: 2-4

Directions:

- 1. The first player selects 6 digit cards and makes the largest possible six-digit number with those digits using a decimal. Example: cards show these digits: 6, 4, 3, 3, 2, 1, this order makes the largest possible number for those digits.
- 2. The player writes that number on line 1.
- 3. The second player selects 6 digit cards and makes the smallest possible number for those digits.
- 4. The player writes that number on line 10.
- 5. The next player selects 6 digit cards and must make a number that falls between the other two. They can choose any line to place that number on.
- 6. The next player selects 6 digit cards and makes a number using those digits that could be placed on an empty line between any two existing numbers.
- 7. Game continues until a number is correctly placed on each line. (All 10 lines contain a number and they are in the correct order), OR players cannot place a number correctly on any of the empty lines.

Variation/Extension: Once students understand the game they can create their own recording sheet in their math notebook. Teacher can modify this game by changing the number of digits or number of lines.

1	
2	
\sim	
4	
5	
8	
9	
0	

0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	0	1
2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9

Race to a Meter: A Decimal Game

Building Fluency: read, write and compare decimals to a thousand

Materials: meter stick, base-10 blocks (40 small cubes and 25 longs), recording sheet, and playing cards

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Players play on opposite sides of the meter stick.
- 2. Players begin at zero, and place the appropriate number of rods or cubes along the edge of the meter stick according to the number selected from the pile of cards.
- 3. When a player has 10 or more cubes, they should trade them for a ten-cm rod.
- 4. After each round, each player should record the move on the recording sheet.
- 5. The winner is the player to reach the end of the meter stick. Player does not have to land exactly on one meter, but may finish beyond the end of the meter stick.

Variation/Extension: Student may use decimal or fraction dice. Students may also create additional cards and extend the length of the meter stick to two meters. Students may also start at the end of the meter stick and subtract the number selected – first player to get to 0 wins.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

PLAYER 1

NUMBER ON CARD	TOTAL SCORE TO THIS POINT

NUMBER ON CARD	TOTAL SCORE TO THIS POINT

1 10	<u>5</u> 100	10 100	<u>5</u> 10
10 10	<u>2</u> 10	<u>50</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100
<u>8</u> 10	<u>8</u> 100	.1	.2
.5	.50	.25	.05
.01	.04	.6	.8

Sum with Decimals

Building Fluency: read, write and compare decimals, add decimals to the hundredth place and use concrete models to represent decimals.

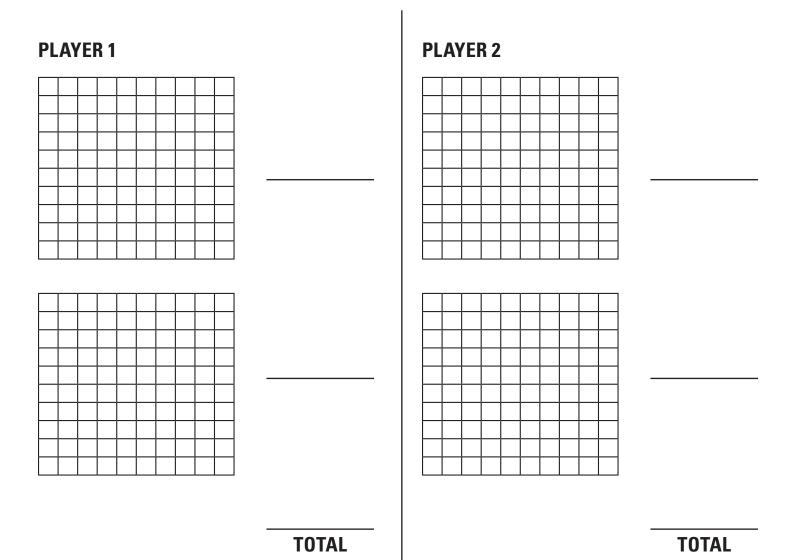
Materials: Pair of dice and recording sheet

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Roll 2 dice and used the numbers rolled to create a decimal to the hundredths place. Example, if you roll a 3 and a 4, you would form the decimal .34 or .43, go to the first grid (on recording sheet) and shade in that fraction of the grid.
- 2. Roll again and shade in the decimal created on the second grid.
- 3. Add both boards, highest total decimal wins.

Variation/Extension: Students could compare each decimal represented on the grid. Teacher can reduce or increased the number of grids. An additional recording sheet has been added for adding 4 decimals for your convenience, if you choose to use it. Teacher may modify by adding decimals together on one grid using different color pencils to represent the different decimals.



PLAYER 2 PLAYER 1

TOTAL TOTAL

Sum with Decimals – Part II

Building Fluency: read, write and compare decimals, add decimals to the thousandths place and use concrete models to represent decimals.

Materials: 3 dice and recording sheet

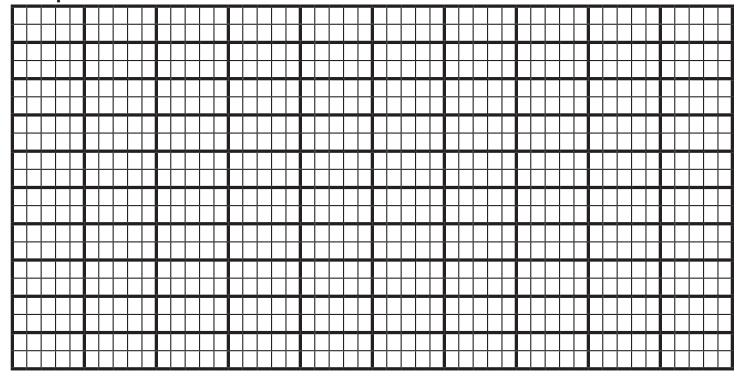
Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Roll 3 dice and make a three digit decimal to the thousandths place. For example, if you roll a 4, 3 and a 4, you would form the decimal .434, go to the first grid (on grid sheet) and shade in that fraction of the grid.
- 2. Roll again and shade in the decimal created on the second grid.
- 3. Add both boards, highest decimal wins.

Variation/Extension: Students could compare each decimal represented on the grid. Teacher may reduce or increased the number of grids. Teacher may modify this game by adding decimals together on one grid using different color pencils to represent the different decimals.

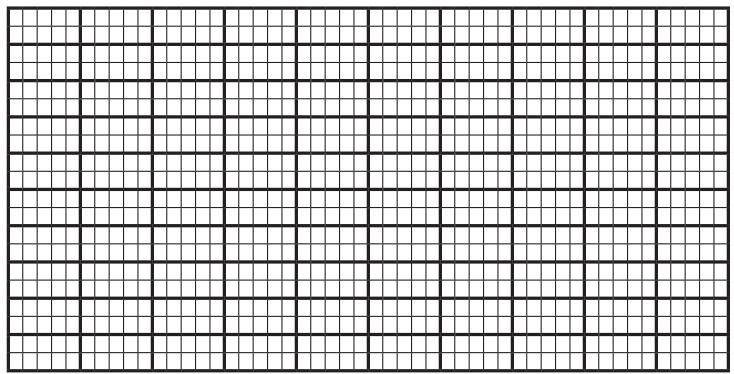
Example Grid



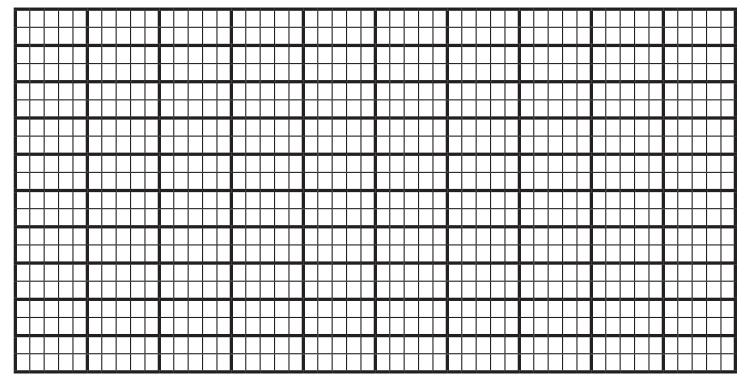


GRADE 5 • BUILDING CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING & FLUENCY THROUGH GAMES

PLAYER 1

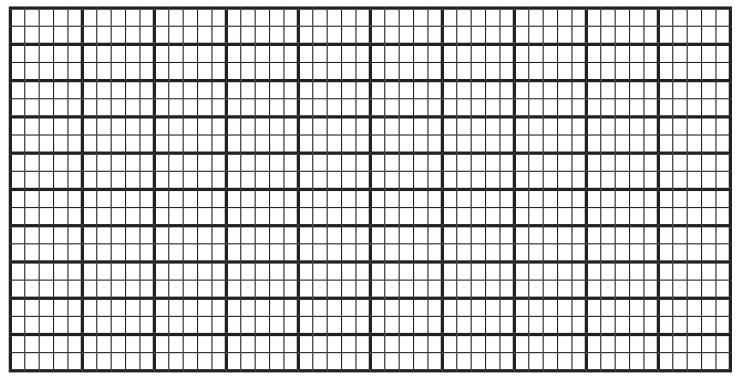


Decimal 1: ______

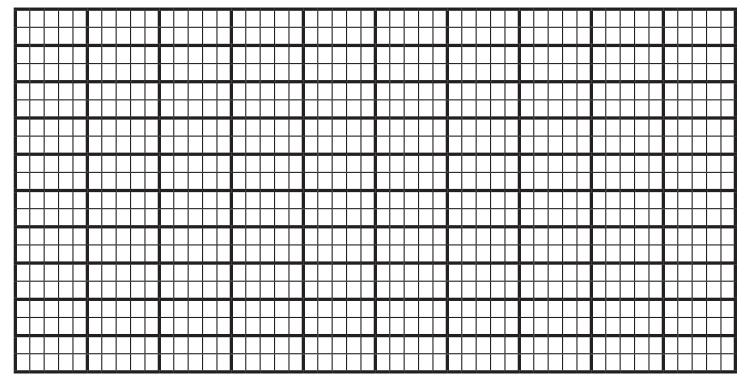


Decimal 2: _____

PLAYER 2



Decimal 1: ______



Decimal 2: _____

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Pieces of Eight

Building Fluency: coordinates and compare decimals

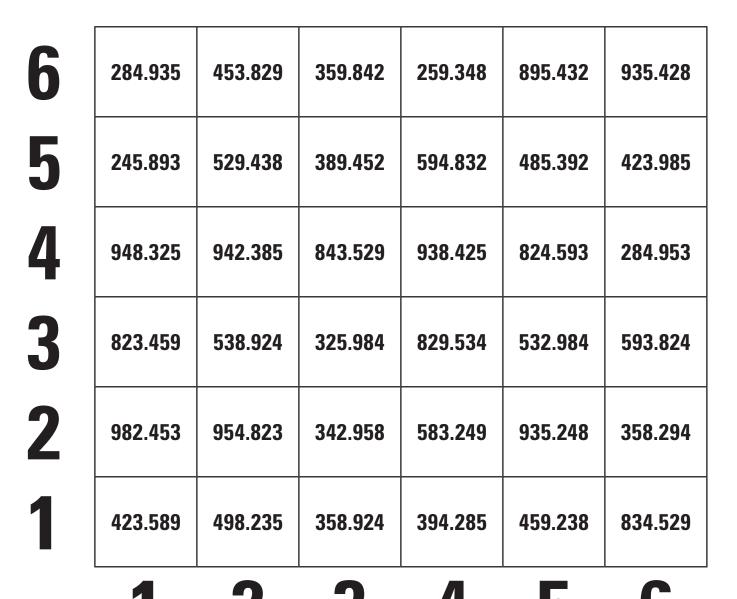
Materials: pair of dice, gameboard, paper

Number of Players: 2-4

Directions:

- 1. Each player rolls dice and chooses coordinate on the grid. Example: if the player rolls a 1 and 3, the player may choose, (1, 3) or (3, 1).
- 2. After each player is on a coordinate, they compare numbers.
- 3. The player with the 8 in the place with the largest value wins the round. In case of a tie the player with the largest number wins.
- 4. Play 10 rounds.
- 5. The player who wins the most rounds wins the game.

Variation/Extension: Students can record the value of the eight and total the 10 rounds, student with the highest sum wins or lowest sum wins.



Race to 10 or Bust

Building Fluency: efficient mental strategies when adding and subtracting decimals. Students may begin to see that strategies that work well with whole numbers, work equally well with decimal, for example, 3.8 + 0.6 is the same as 3.8 + 0.2 + 0.4.

Materials: die and recording sheet

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. The player rolls the number cube and calls out the number.
- 2. Each player individually chooses whether to use the number as ones or as tenths. Once a decision has been made, it cannot be changed.
 - Example: The roller rolls 5. Player 1 may record it as 5 ones (5) or as 5 tenths (0.5).
- 3. The players record their choice in the appropriate column and keeps a cumulative total in the 'Total' column on their recording sheet.
- 4. Play continues in this way for eight rounds.
- 5. The player who scores 10 or is closet to (but not beyond) 10 is the winner.

Variation/Extension: Students could change the total number – 100 or use a dice (0-9). Number of rounds could also be changed – more or less. Once students understand how this game works they can create their own table in their math notebook instead of using recording sheet. Additional recording sheets have been included for your convenience.

PLAYER 1

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

PLAYER 1

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

ONES	TENTHS	TOTAL

Race to 1 or Bust

Building Fluency: add decimals

Materials: die and recording sheet

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Each player takes their turn rolling the die.
- 2. After the roll, every player places the digit rolled in any box of their grid. This must be done before next roll.
- 3. Once the table is totally completed, add up the decimals to find the winner.

Variation/Extension: Once students understand how this game works they can create their own recording table in their math notebook instead of using recording sheet. Teachers may modify the game by changing the number of rows in the table. Additional recording sheets have been added for you convenience.

PLAYER 1

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

PLAYER 1

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

TENTHS	HUNDREDTHS
TOTAL:	TOTAL:

Shopping Spree

Building Fluency: adding and subtracting decimals

Materials: timer, recording sheet and price tag sheet

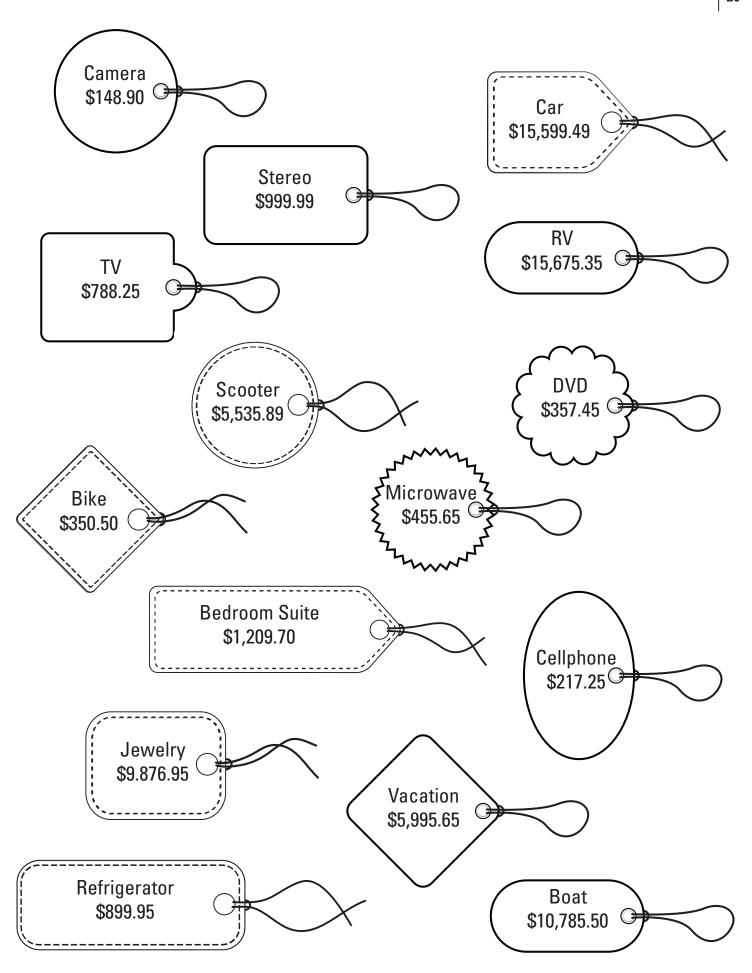
Number of Players: 2

Directions: Karla likes to watch a game show called "Shopping Spree". On the show, each of two contestants is given a certain amount of money to spend. Then each contestant has 30 seconds to choose from a list of prizes whose costs are given. The winner is the contestant who comes closest to the amount of money they are given to spend without going over. Play the game "Shopping Spree" with a classmate using the list of prizes and costs on the next page.

- 1. Decide who will be Contestant 1 and who will be Contestant 2.
- 2. As Contestant 1 chooses price tags, Contestant 2 records the choices. Example: Scooter \$5,535.89
- 3. Then switch places and let Contestant 2 choose while Contestant 1 records.
- 4. After both contestants have chosen their price tags, add the costs and determine who came the closest without going over.
- 5. Remember, you have 30 seconds to make your choices.

Variation/Extension: Change the amounts for the two contestants. Do you think the game could be unfair depending upon the amounts for the contestants to spend? Explain your thinking. Use the sales catalogs and create your own Shopping Spree.

CONTESTANT 1: \$16,789.50	CONTESTANT 2: \$20,005.99



Multiplication Mix-up

Building Fluency: multiply multi-digit whole numbers

Materials: deck of cards, calculator

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Remove the face cards from a deck of playing cards. The ace represents one and all other cards carry their numerical values.
- 2. Deal each player three cards.
- 3. Each player must use two of the cards to make a two digit number.
- 4. The third card will be the multiplier.

 Example, if a player draws a 1, 5, and 8, he could use the 1 and the 5 to make the two digit number 51 and multiply by 8 for a total of 408.
- 5. The player with the largest product gets the cards.

Variation/Extension: Students may want to create their own recording table in their math notebook to record their equations showing the standard algorithm or strategy used to solve the equation. Students may also want to use a calculator to check their work.



Double Dutch Treat

Building Fluency: add and divide whole numbers

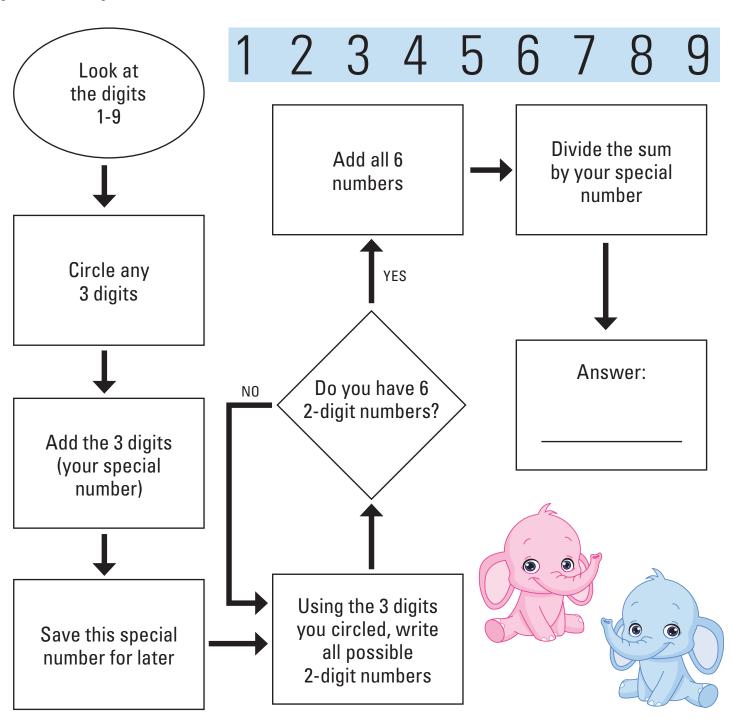
Materials: game board

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Follow the steps laid out on the game board.
- 2. What do you notice?

Variation/Extension: Students may want to record their work in their math notebook. Students create their own version of this game, result ending with an even number or odd numbers etc...



Decimal Dynamo

Building Fluency: adding and multiplying decimals

Materials: 4 dice and recording sheet, calculator

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Roll 4 die (or one die 4 times). Use these numbers to create a 2-digit number and a whole number with a decimal.
 - Example: 6 4 2 5 62 and 5.4 or 46 and 2.5
- 2. Record the numbers you create for each round.
- 3. Multiply these numbers and record the product for each round on the next line gray space.
- 4. At the end of 6 rounds, add the products. The winner is the player with the smallest sum of the 6 products.

Variation/Extension: The winner with the greatest sum. Students may need to use a calculator to check their work.

PLAYER 1

	X	
Round 1 Product →		
	X	
Round 2 Product →		
	X	
Round 3 Product →		
	X	
Round 4 Product →		
X		
Round 5 Product →		
X		
Round 6 Product →		
TOTAL OF ALL PRODUCTS		

	X	
Round 1 Product →		
	_ X	
Round 2 Product →		
	X	
Round 3 Product →		
	X	
Round 4 Product →		
x		
Round 5 Product →		
X		
Round 6 Product →		
TOTAL OF ALL PRODUCTS		

Race to the Finish Line

Building Fluency:

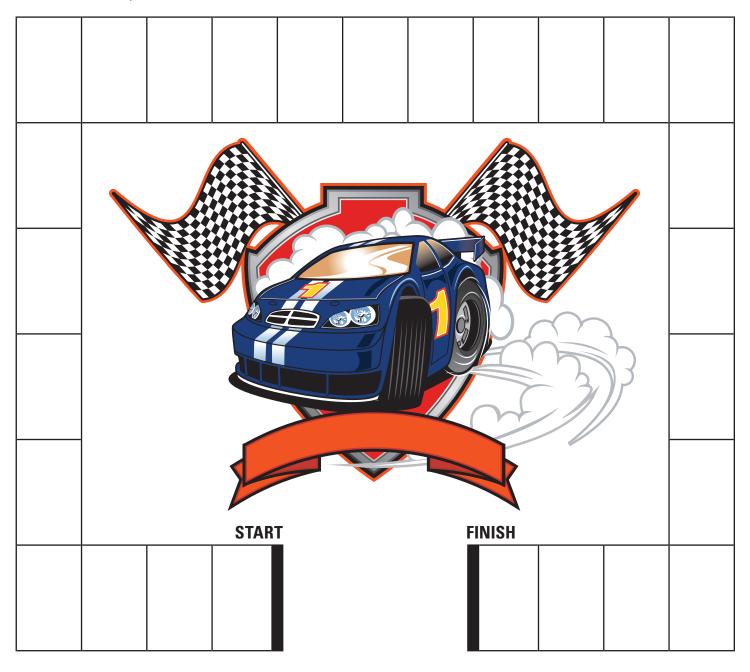
Materials: gameboard, gamemarker, die and game cards, piece of paper, answer slip

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Players place marker on the starting space.
- 2. Player 1 gets cards 1-12 with answer slip 1 and Player 2 gets cards 13-24 with answer slip 2.
- 3. Place game cards face down. Players take turns drawing a card and answering the question.
- 4. If the answer is correct, the player rolls a die and moves forward that number of spaces.
- 5. Player that crosses the finish line first is the winner.

Variation/Extension: Student may want to create their own set of game cards or add to the set of cards. Additional blank cards have been added for your convenience.



1

Race to the Finish Line

Which of these is the most reasonable estimate for 0.6 x 0.5?

a. 30 b. 3 c. 0.3

2

Race to the Finish Line

Which of these is the most reasonable estimate for $16 \div 0.51$?

a.8 b.30 c.0.8

3

Race to the Finish Line

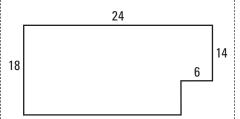
Which is the most reasonable estimate for $2.54 \div 0.5$?

a.50 b.5 c.0.5

4

Race to the Finish Line

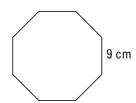
What is the perimeter of this figure?



5

Race to the Finish Line

What is the perimeter of this regular octagon?



6

Race to the Finish Line

If the sides of this regular hexagon are halved, what is the perimeter?



7

Race to the Finish Line

Which of these is the most reasonable estimate for 109 x 0.4?

a. 400 b. 45 c. 405

8

Race to the Finish Line

Where should you place the decimal point in the middle number so that the 3 numbers are in order from largest to smallest?

110, 714, 42

9

Race to the Finish Line

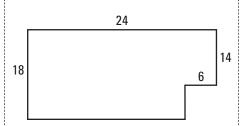
Which is the most reasonable estimate for 0.54 x 54?

a. 250 b. 25 c. 2.50

10

Race to the Finish Line

What is the area of this figure?



11

Race to the Finish Line

Where should you place the decimal point in the middle number so that the 3 numbers are in order from smallest to largest?

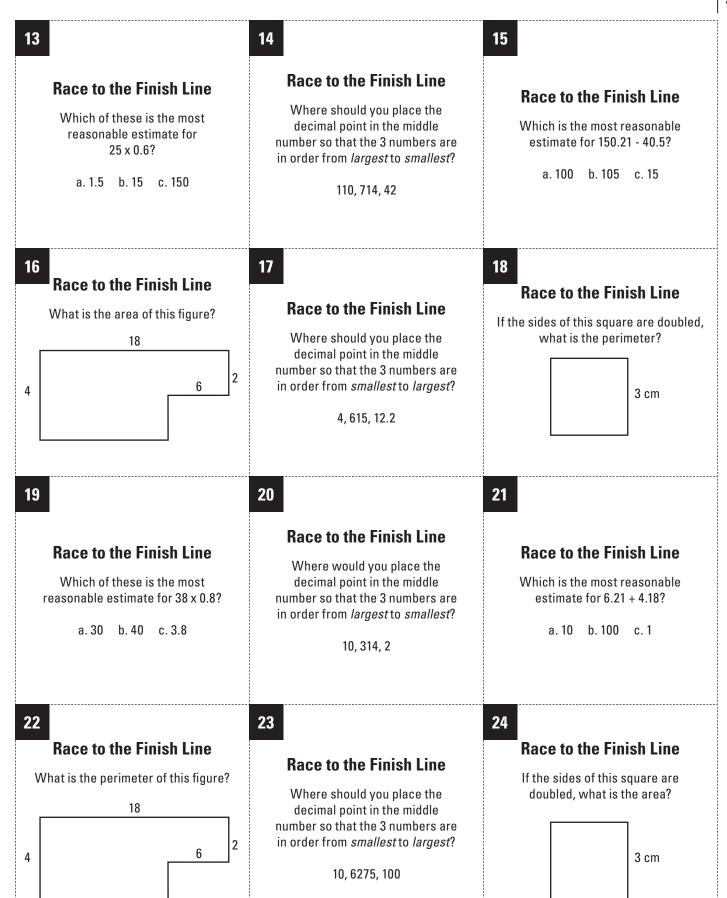
19.7, 514, 122

12

Race to the Finish Line

If the sides of a cube are doubled, how many vertices will it have?





Parts of a Whole

Building Fluency: multiplication of whole number by a fractions

Materials: whole number die (1-6), fraction circle, and fraction cards or fraction die or spinner

Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Player rolls a standard whole number die, and spins the spinner.
- 2. The standard die represents the number of groups, and the spinner represents the fraction in each group. Example: A roll of 3 on the standard die, and spin $\frac{1}{4}$ on the spinner would be represented 3 groups with $\frac{1}{4}$.
- 3. Use fraction circles to help determine the product for each round.

EUIIVIIUN

- 4. If your result is 1 or more, you receive a star.
- 5. Play several rounds and count the stars you have collected.
- 6. The player with the most stars collected is the winner.

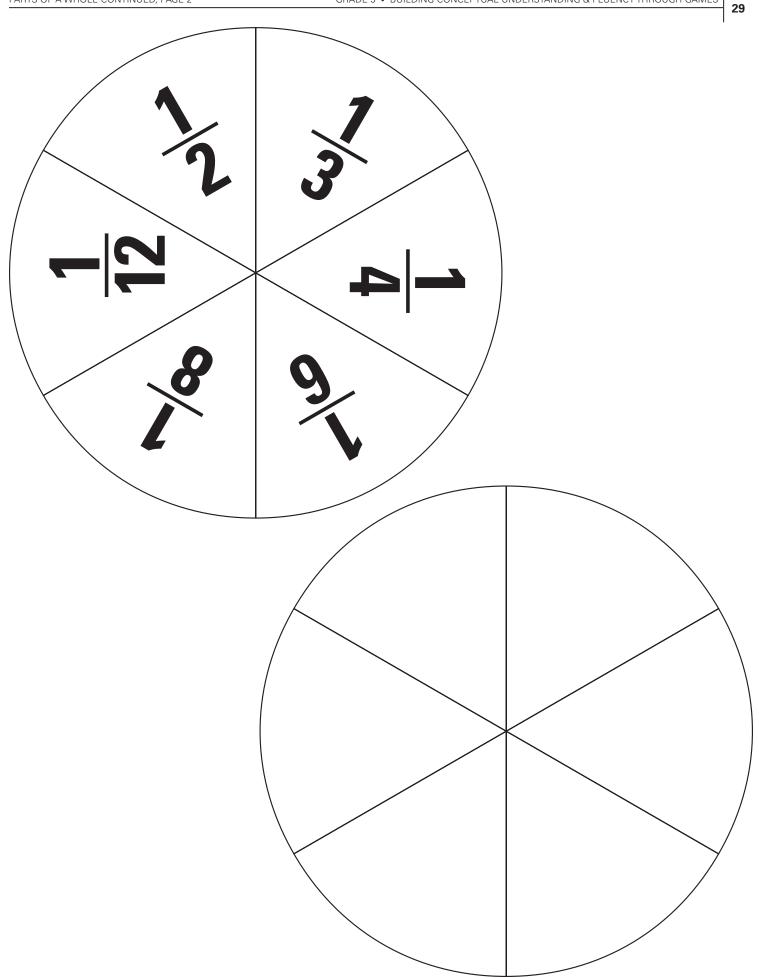
Variation/Extension: Student may want to modify fractions on spinner or use a die 0-9. A blank spinner and fraction circles are added for your convenience. Teacher may also want students to add the products. Students may want to write coordinating problems to fit each equation.

PLAYER 1

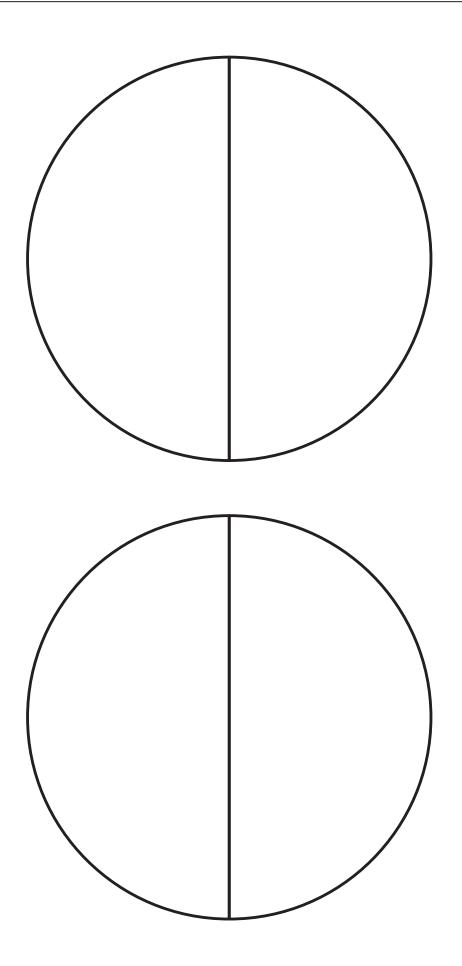
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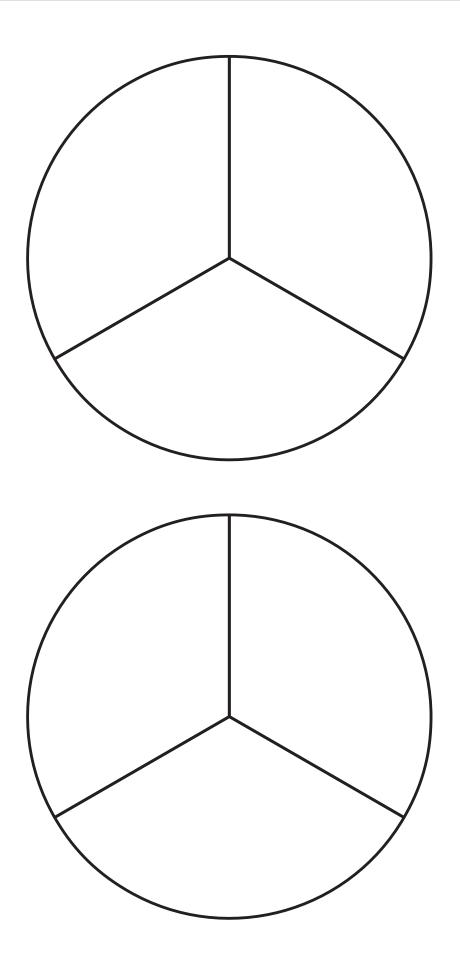
ROLL	SPIN	EQUATION

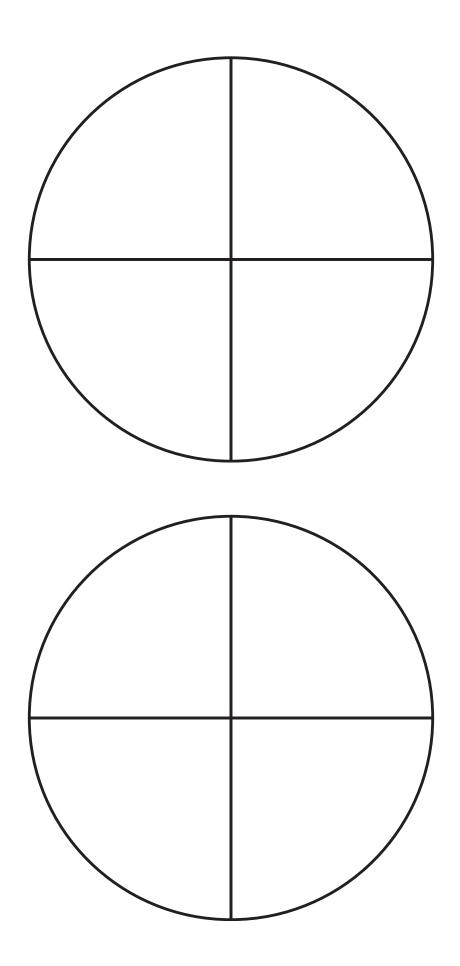
ROLL	SPIN	EQUATION

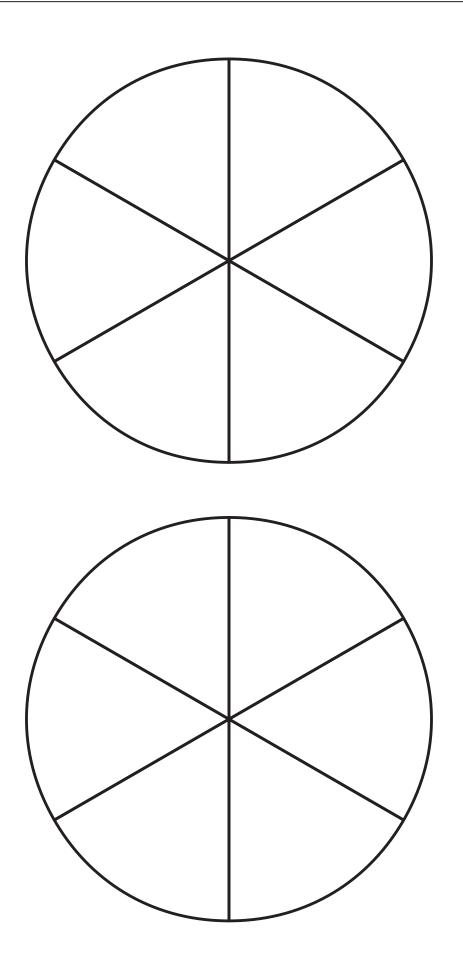


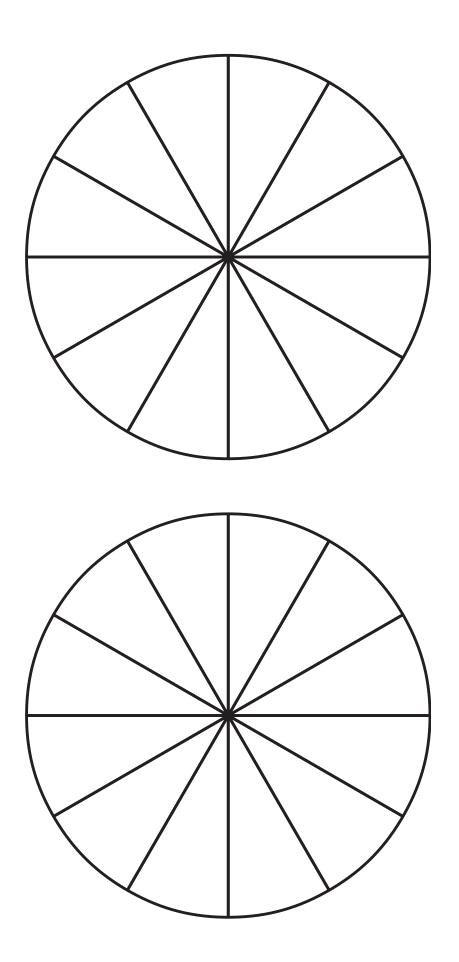
		- 4
	—	- 2
		- 4
		- 2
		- 4
- 6		- 2

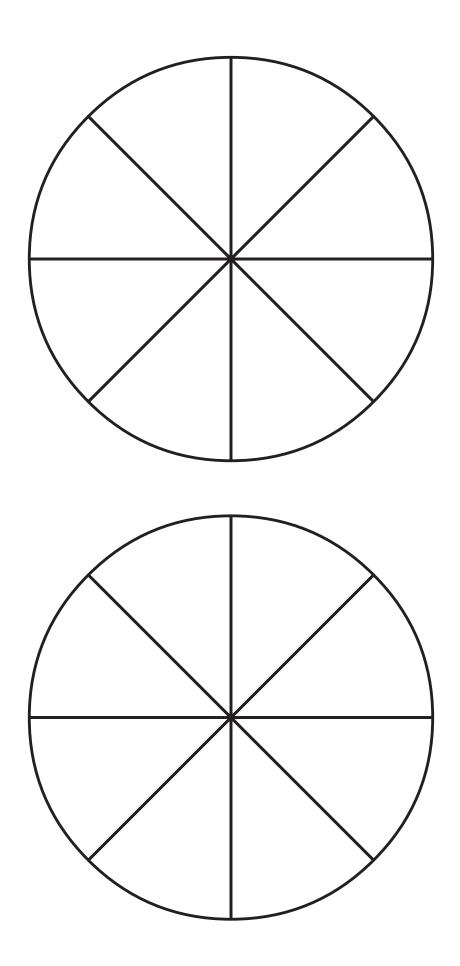














The Whole Matters

Building Fluency: multiply fractions

Materials: gameboard per person and fraction cards or fraction die or spinner

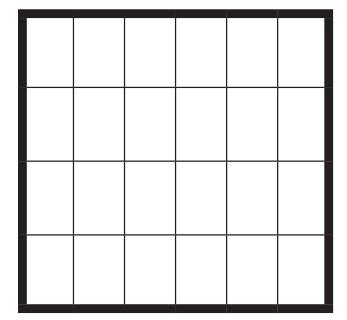
Number of Players: 2 or more

Directions:

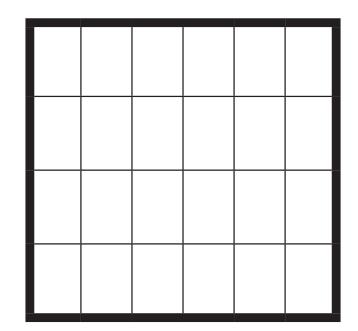
- Give each player a game board (divided into 24 equal parts), and fraction cards or fraction die or spinner
- 2. The players take turns rolling their die. After each roll, the player rolling will shade in that fraction of their playing board. Example: if a player rolls $\frac{1}{2}$, they would shade in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 24 boxes on the game board.
- 3. For all subsequent rolls, the fraction taken is of the amount remaining on the board after all previous rolls. Example: if a player has 12 boxes unshaded on his second roll, and they roll $\frac{1}{3}$, they would shade in 4 boxes, because $\frac{1}{3}$ of 12 is 4.
- 4. If you get a fraction that you are unable to divide, choose another fraction card.
- 5. The first player to have one unshaded box wins.

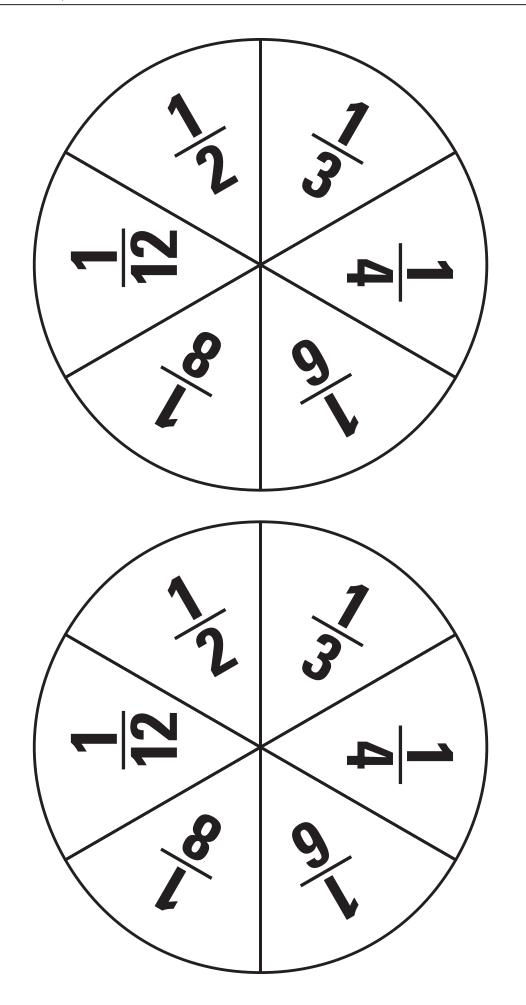
Variation/Extension: Students may change the fractions used, the gameboard, or the goal of the game. Additional game board are added for your convenience.

PLAYER 1



PLAYER 2





- ~	— m	
	— ∞	- 2
—	— m	- 4
- 6	— ∞	- 2
- ~	— m	
	— ∞	- 2

Greatest Product

Building Fluency: multiply a fraction by a fraction

Materials: deck of cards; optional calculator with grid paper and colored pencils

Number of Players: 2 or more

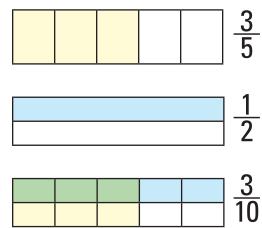
Directions:

1. Use only the number cards from a deck of playing cards. Aces are worth one point each.

2. A fraction can be made by using two cards. One card is the numerator, and one card is the denominator.

3. Deal each player four number cards. Arrange the four cards to make a multiplication problem. Example: Let's say you were dealt 3, 1, 5, and 2 with these cards, you could make the fraction problem: $\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{1}{2}$ (No fractions over one are allowed.)

4. Draw an area model to support your product. Example:

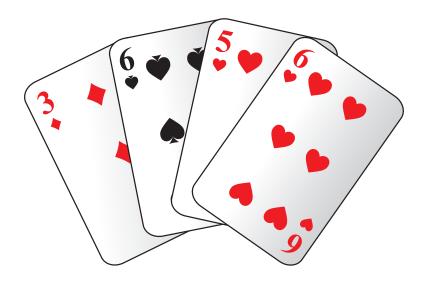


- 5. The player who forms the greatest product wins.
- 6. After you have played several rounds for the greatest product, play for the least product.

Variation/Extension: Student may want to record their work in their math notebook or use grid paper to create a model.

Allow students to create fractions over one – Why when multiplying a number by a fraction greater than 1 the results of the product is greater?

Another fun way to play the game is to allow the players to form their fractions first, and make their calculations before you say highest or lowest.



Color the Door

Building Fluency: equivalence

Materials: recording sheet per player, fraction cards or fraction die or spinner

Number of Players: 2-4

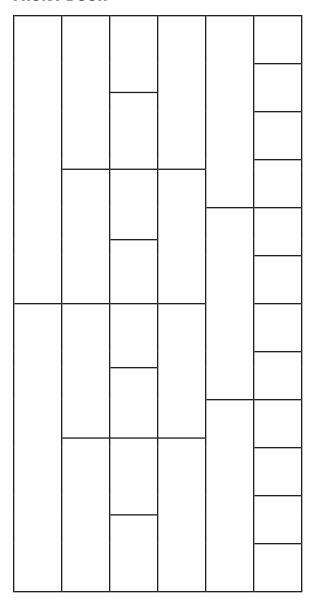
Directions:

- 1. Each player takes turns drawing a card from the pile.
- 2. Player shades the door according to the value of the card drawn.
- 3. Players may shade in equivalent fractions if applicable.
- 4. If a player rolls a fraction, and not enough space is left on the front or back door for shading, the player loses their turn, and waits for the next roll of the die.
- 5. The first player to shade the front and back door wins.

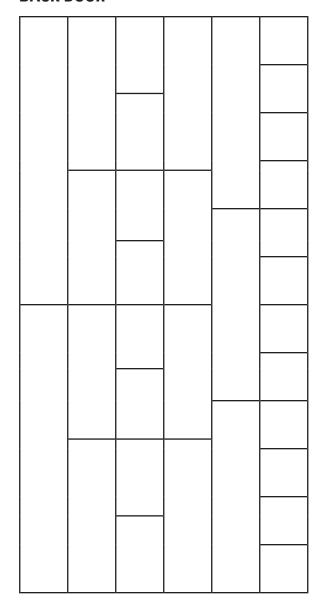
Variation/Extension: Students can create their own door and fraction playing cards.



FRONT DOOR



BACK DOOR

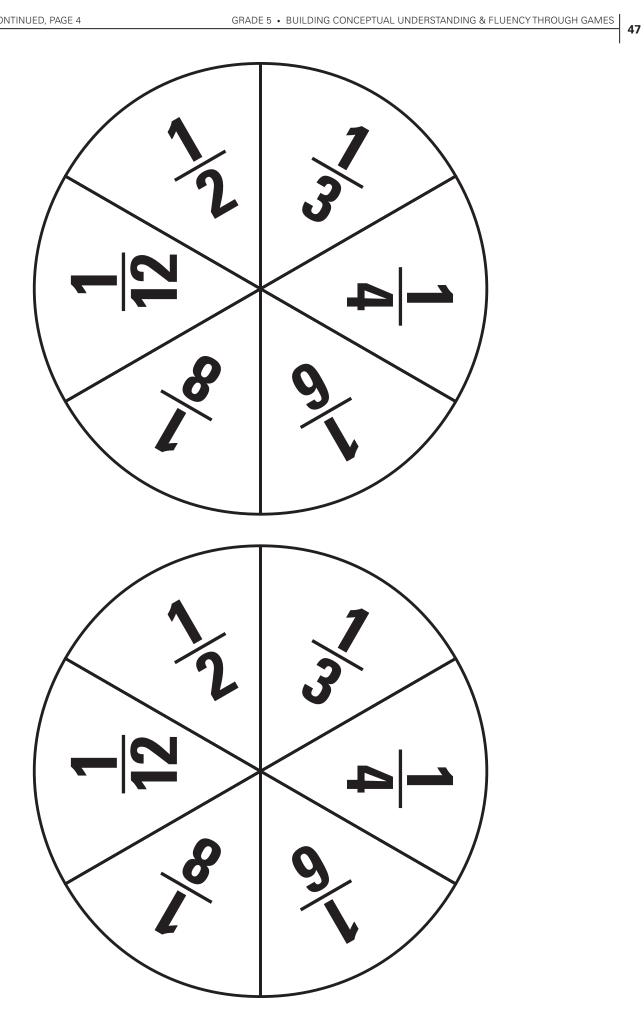


PLAYER _____

FRONT	DOOR		

BACK I	DOOR		

		- 4
	—	- 2
		- 4
	—	- 2
— ~		- 4
		- 2



Rolling, Rolling, Rolling

Building Fluency: equivalence - review

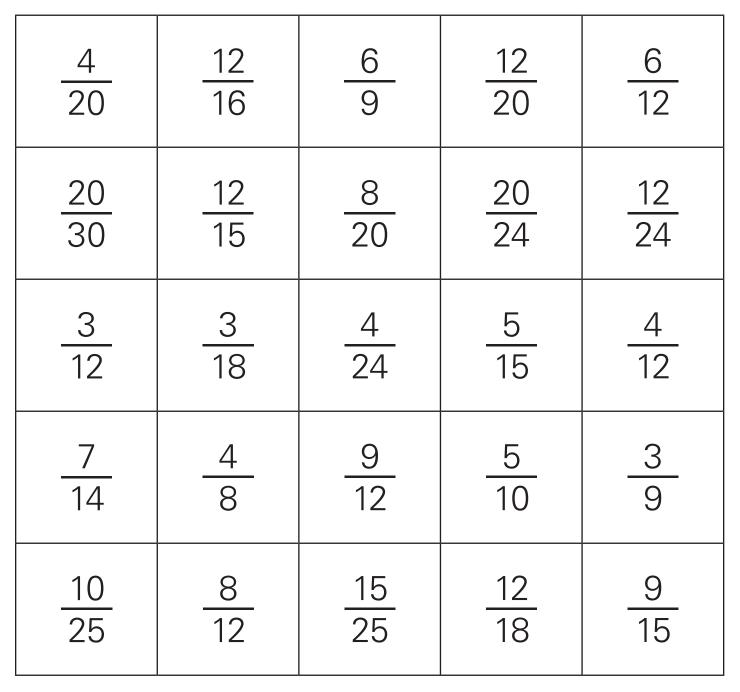
Materials: gameboard, 10 markers of one color per person, and a pair of standard dice (1-6)

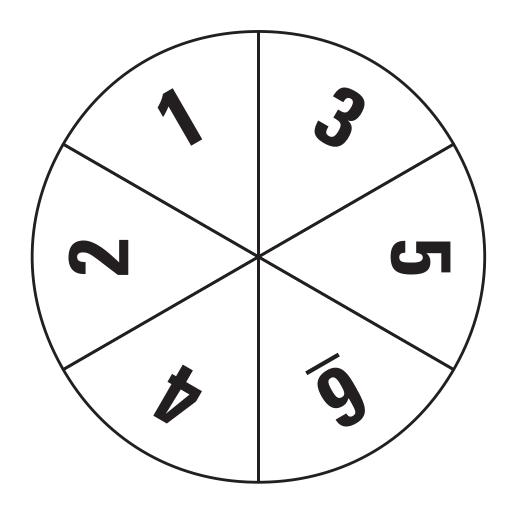
Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Each player needs 10 markers of one color.
- 2. Players take turns rolling 2 number cubes and making a fraction. The players may cover an equivalent fraction on the game board.
- 3. If a player rolls doubles, they may roll again and either cover the equivalent fraction rolled or remove an opponent's marker.
- 4. The first player to get 3 in a row in any direction wins.

Variation/Extension: Students may create their own fraction gameboards. Another way to modify the game is to change the die (1-9).





Packing Blocks

Building Fluency: volume

Materials: game cards, calculator

Number of Players: 2



Directions: Tami and Natasha make baby toys for a local toy manufacturer. They are packing some baby blocks made into a shipping box. The shipping box has a volume of 1536 cubic inches. The dimensions of the blocks they are packing in the box are given below.

They must pack all of the same sized blocks into one box. Tami and Natasha want to decide before they actually pack the box. Which blocks might fit into the box with no space left over? Can you help Tami and Natasha decide which blocks could be packed into each box?

- 1. Correctly match the "Dimension of Block" cards with the correct "Volume of Box" cards.
- 2. Then match the "Maximum Number of Blocks."
- 3. Students may need a calculator.
- 3. Match the cards to find which blocks can be packed into Tami and Natasha's box with no space left over, (no remainder)?

Variation/Extension: Students create their own set of cards.

Dimensions of Block 1	The Volume of Box	Maximum Number of Block		
6 in by 6 in by 6 in	V = 125 cubic inches	7 blocks		
Dimensions of Block 2	Maximum Number of Blocks	The Volume of Box		
5 in by 5 in by 5 in	24 blocks	V = 27 cubic inches		
Dimensions of Block 3	Maximum Number of Blocks	The Volume of Box		
4 in by 4 in by 4 in	192 blocks	V = 64 cubic inches		
Dimensions of Block 4	The Volume of Box	Maximum Number of Blocks		
3 in by 3 in by 3 in	V = 8 cubic inches	12 blocks		
Dimensions of Block 5	The Volume of Box	Maximum Number of Blocks		
2 in by 2 in by 2 in	V = 216 cubic inches	56 blocks		

Answer Key

The following Rows go toether.

Dimensions of Block 1 The Volume of Box Maximum Number of Blocks 6 in by 6 in by 6 in V = 216 cubic inches 7 blocks Dimensions of Block 2 The Volume of Box Maximum Number of Blocks 5 in by 5 in by 5 in V = 125 cubic inches 12 blocks Dimensions of Block 3 The Volume of Box Maximum Number of Blocks 4 in by 4 in by 4 in V = 64 cubic inches 24 blocks Dimensions of Block 4 The Volume of Box Maximum Number of Blocks V = 27 cubic inches 3 in by 3 in by 3 in 56 blocks Dimensions of Block 5 The Volume of Box Maximum Number of Blocks V = 8 cubic inches 2 in by 2 in by 2 in 192 blocks

Blackbeard's Treasure Box

Building Fluency: finding points on the first quadrant of the coordinate plane

Materials: standard dice, 10 markers per player (players need different colors), and a gameboard

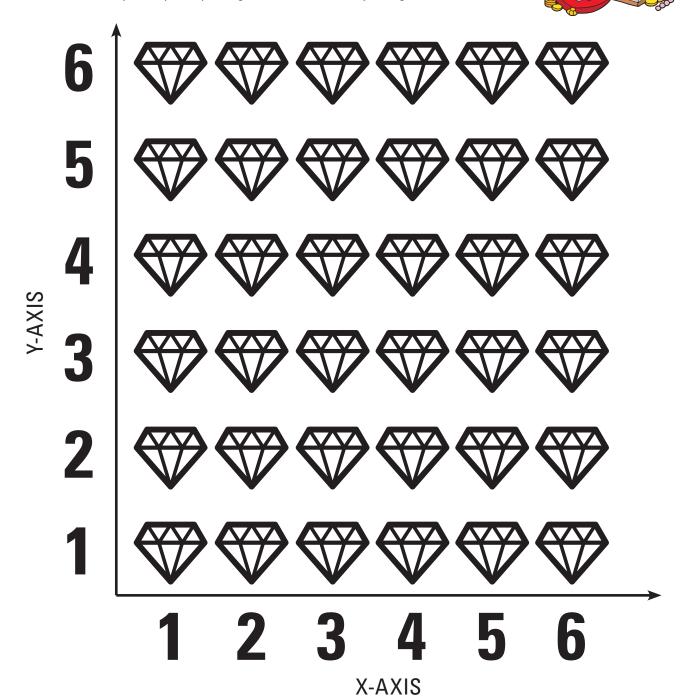
Number of Players: 2

Directions:

- 1. Players take turns rolling the cubes.
- 2. Players need to designate one cube for the y-axis and one cube for the y-axis.

 Example: if the x-axis cube is two and the y-axis cube is three, the player would cover the gem at (2, 3).
- 3. If a player tosses and the gem at that place is taken, the player loses that turn.
- 4. The first player to get four in a row wins.

Variation/Extension: Players may win by seeing who can cover four adjacent gems to form a box.



Online Games Available

Operations and Algebraic Thinking



Algebraic Expressions Millionaire Game

www.math-play.com/Algebraic-Expressions-Millionaire/algebraic-expressions-millionaire.html

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.0A.2

Number and Operations in Base Ten

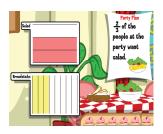


Place Value Decimal - That Quiz

www.thatquiz.org/tq-c/?-j84-l3-n35-p0%20

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.NBT.1

Number and Operations – Fractions



Work with Uncommon Denominators

http://www.factmonster.com/math/knowledgebox/player.html?movie=sfw50634

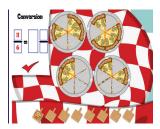
Building Fluency with Standard: 5.NF.2



Multiplying Fractions Millionaire Game

www.math-play.com/Multiplying-Fractions-Millionaire/Multiplying-Fractions-Millionaire.html

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.NF.4

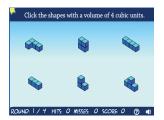


Convert Improper fractions to Mixed Numbers

http://www.factmonster.com/math/knowledgebox/player.html?movie=sfw50629

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.NF.6

Measurement and Data



Volume Shape Game

www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/geometry/shapeshoot/VolumeShapesShoot.htm

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.MD.3



Mine Craft Volume

www.xpmath.com/forums/arcade.php?do=play&gameid=118

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.MD.4 and 5.MD.5

Geometry



Billy Bug

http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/BillyBug/bugcoord.html

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.G.1



Ordered Pairs

http://www.factmonster.com/math/knowledgebox/player.html?movie=sfw50644

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.G.2



Soccer Coordinates

http://www.xpmath.com/forums/arcade.php?do=play&gameid=90

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.G.2



Identify Polygons

http://www.factmonster.com/math/knowledgebox/player.html?movie=sfw41556

Building Fluency with Standard: 5.G.3