Chapter 3: Number Sense

Contents

Note to reader: The use of the non-binary, singular pronouns *they*, *them*, *their*, *theirs*, *themself*, and *themselves* in this framework is intentional.

Introduction

From the time a child can talk, and possibly even before, a child’s understanding of numbers is intertwined with their relationship to the world. Before any formal instruction begins, a child’s understanding of numbers, and the role that numbers play in life, originates from a place of context. Given sufficient opportunity, young children naturally begin developing an understanding of numbers before they enter school. As they start to explore, children use numbers as a way to help describe what they see, and to gauge their own place in the world. In the case of age, which is often one of the first uses of a number for a child, they see this number growing and changing as they, in fact, also grow and change. When a child asks another child, “How many are you?” they are looking to utilize a numeric response to gain insight into others, and to themselves, as they know that age indicates experience, growth, access to privileges, and so on. They may hold up fingers to represent their own age, or count by rote, “1, 2, 3, ….” to describe how many pets, toys, or cookies they see.

Children continue to use numbers when at play or engaged in the daily activities of life. In Transitional Kindergarten (TK), students count to ten as they play games, sing, or help with classroom tasks. Elementary-age children make comparisons (who has more?), play games that involve keeping score, and keep track of time. As pre-teens, they start to pursue more personal and social interests, and numbers play a role in helping them make decisions about saving and spending money, scheduling time with friends, and managing free time. Extra-curricular activities such as music, athletics, video games and other entertainments present situations that also call for numerical thinking. Such number-related interests grow in sophistication as students transition to the teenage years. As adolescents start to gain a measure of independence, numbers can inform their decisions as they keep track of a budget, shop for items frugally, and save for future endeavors. Adults use numbers on a day-to-day basis for cooking, shopping, household finances, mileage, and community activities such as fundraising and civic engagement. Thus, a strong foundation in the use and understanding of numbers, developed throughout the school years is critical in preparing young community members to continue to make sense of the world and to make wise decisions as adults. Number sense has many components, and while it is easily recognized, it may be difficult to define. The operating definition of number sense for this chapter is: a form of intuition that students develop about number (or quantity). As students increase their number sense, they can see relationships between numbers readily, think flexibly about numbers, and notice patterns that emerge as one works with numbers. Students who have developed number sense think about numbers **holistically** rather than as separate **digits**, and can devise and apply procedures to solve problems based on the particular numbers involved. Summarily, “number sense reflects a deep understanding of mathematics, but it comes about through a mathematical mindset that is focused on making sense of

Fluency

Fluency is an important component of mathematics; it contributes to a student’s success through the school years and will remain useful in daily life as an adult. What do we mean by fluency in elementary grade mathematics? Content standard 3.OA.7, for example, calls for third graders to “Fluently multiply and divide within 100, using strategies such as the relationship between multiplication and division … or properties of operations.” Fluency means that students use strategies that are ***flexible***, ***efficient***, and *accurate* to solve problems in mathematics. Students who are comfortable with numbers and who have learned to compose and **decompose** numbers strategically develop fluency along with conceptual understanding. They can use known facts to determine unknown facts. They understand, for example, that the product of 4 x 6 will be twice the product of 2 x 6, so that if they know 2 x 6 = 12, then 4 x 6 = 2 x 12, or 24.

In the past, fluency has sometimes been equated with speed, which may account for the common, but counterproductive, use of timed tests for practicing facts. But in fact, research has found that “timed tests offer little insight about how flexible students are in their use of strategies or even which strategies a student selects. And evidence suggests that efficiency and accuracy may actually be negatively influenced by timed testing” (Kling and Bay-Williams, 2014, p.489).

Fluency is more than the memorization of facts, procedures, or having the ability to use one procedure for a given situation. Fluency builds on a foundation of conceptual understanding, strategic reasoning, and problem solving (NGA Center & CCSSO, 2010; NCTM, 2000, 2014). To develop fluency, students need to connect their conceptual understanding with strategies (including standard algorithms) in ways that make sense to them.

numbers and quantities" (Boaler, 2016). While students enter school possessing varying levels of number sense, research shows that this knowledge is not an inherited capacity. Instead, "number sense is something that can be improved, although not necessarily by direct teaching. Moving between **representations** and playing games can help children's number sense development" (Feikes, D. & Schwingendorf, K. 2008). The acquisition of a rich, comfortable sense of number is incremental, and is enriched by play both inside and outside the classroom. When educators encourage, recognize, and value students' emerging sense of number, it supports their growth as mathematically capable, independent problem solvers.

Literacy and language development comprise a corollary need critical in supporting mathematic instruction. For students who are English learners (ELs), this developing mathematical proficiency should reflect instruction rooted in and informed by the California English Language Development Standards (CA ELD Standards). The first stated purpose of the CA ELD Standards is to "reflect expectations of what ELs should know and be able to do with the English language in various contexts" (8). Knowledge of and alignment to the CA ELD Standards allows mathematics educators better understanding of ways to strengthen instructional support that benefits all students. Building comprehensive mathematic instruction on an understanding of ELD standards ensures that learning reflects a meaningful and relevant use of language that is appropriate to grade level, content area, topic, purpose, audience, and text type (36). Instruction in the elementary grades should provide students with frequent, varied, culturally relevant, interesting experiences to promote the development of number sense. Some of this needs to be sustained investigations in which children explore numerical situations for an extended time in order to initiate, refine, and deepen their understanding. Students further strengthen their number sense when they communicate ideas, explain reasoning and consider the reasoning of others. These experiences give each student the opportunity to internalize a cohesive structure for numbers that is both robust and consistent. The eight California Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice (SMP), implemented in tandem with the California Common Core State Content Standards (CA CCSCS), offer a carefully constructed pathway that supports the gradual growth of number sense across grade levels.

This chapter presents a continuum of segments organized by grade bands (K–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12), demonstrating how number sense underlies much of the mathematics content that students encounter across the school years, and how the **big ideas** in number sense are connected across multiple grades. The value of focusing on big ideas for teachers, and their students, cannot be overstated. Voices in the field emphasize this: “When teachers work on identifying and discussing big ideas, they become attuned to the mathematics that is most important and that they may see in tasks, they also develop a greater appreciation of the connections that run between tasks and ideas” (Boaler, J., Munson, J., Williams, C., 2018). In each grade band section, the framework focuses on several big ideas that have great impact on students’ conceptual understanding, and which are connected to multiple elements of the content standards.

The grade band chapters include sample number-related questions and tasks representative of each grade, which are intended to illustrate how students use number sense across the grades to succeed in meeting the expectations of the Mathematical Practices and the content standards. Because **math talks**, **number talks** and/or **number strings**, and games are especially powerful means of cultivating number sense, a section on each of these topics is included for each grade band. **Fluency** in mathematics is defined and described here, as the topic is of continuing importance across all grade levels.

The table below presents the big ideas that will be addressed in each grade level band.

TK–2	3–5	6–8	9–12
• Organize and count with numbers • Compare and order numbers on a line • Operate with numbers flexibly	• Extend their flexibility with number • Understand the operations of multiplication and division • Make sense of operations with fractions and decimals • Use number lines as tools	• Number line understanding • Proportions, ratios, percents, and relationships among these • See generalized numbers as leading to algebra	• Seeing parallels between numbers and functions in grades 9–12 • Developing an understanding of real and complex number systems • Developing financial literacy

Primary Grades, TK–2

In the primary grades, students begin the important work of making sense of our number system, implementing SMP.2, “Reason abstractly and quantitatively.” Students learn to count and compare, decompose, and recompose numbers. Building on a TK understanding that putting two groups of objects together will make a bigger group (addition), kindergarteners learn to take groups of objects apart, forming smaller groups (subtraction). They develop an understanding of the meaning of addition and subtraction and use the properties of these operations. Table X below shows how students’ number sense foundation begins with quantities encountered in daily life before progressing to more formal work with operations and place value.

Table X

Table TK-2. Alignment Between the California Preschool Learning Foundations and the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (Kindergarten)

California Preschool Learning Foundations	California Common Core State Standards—Kindergarten
Mathematics	**Mathematics**
Number Sense	**Counting and Cardinality**
Children understand numbers and quantities in their everyday environment. →	Know number names and the count sequence Count to tell the number of objects Compare numbers
Children understand number relationships and operations in their everyday environment. →	**Operations and Algebraic Thinking** Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and subtraction as taking apart and taking from **Number and Operations in Base Ten** Work with numbers 11–19 to gain foundations for place value

Source: https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/psalignment.pdf

In kindergarten and first grade, students begin work with place value, and by the end of second grade they compare values of two-digit and three-digit numbers. Three big ideas (Boaler, J., Munson, J., Williams, C. *What is Mathematical Beauty?*) related to number sense for grades K–2 call for students to:

- Organize and count with numbers

- Compare and order numbers on a line
- Operate with numbers flexibly

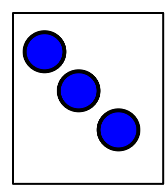
Students who acquire number sense in these grades use numbers comfortably and intentionally to solve mathematical problems. They select or invent sensible calculation strategies to make sense in a particular situation, developing as mathematical thinkers. All students, including students who are English learners (ELs) and those with learning differences, benefit from instruction that allows for peer interaction and support, multiple approaches, and multiple means of representing their thinking (see Chapter 2 for more on principles of Universal Design for Learning and strategies for English language development).

How do students organize and count numbers?

Transitional Kindergarten

The work of learning to count typically begins in the pre-school years. Often, young children who have not yet developed a mental construct of the quantity “ten” can recite the numbers 1–10 fluently. In TK, children learn to count objects meaningfully: they touch objects one-by-one as they name the quantities, and they recognize that the total quantity is identified by the name of the last object counted (MP.2, 5; PLF.NS - 1.4, 1.5).

Kindergarten



In Kindergarten, children become familiar with numbers from 1–20 (K.CC.5). They count quantities up through 10 accurately when presented in various configurations. Dot pictures can be an effective tool for developing counting strategies. With practice, students learn to **subitize** (recognize a quantity without needing to count) small quantities, 1–5. Counting Collections is a structured activity in which students work with a partner to count a collection of small objects and make a representation of how they counted the collection (Franke, 2018; Schwerdtfeger and Chan, 2007). While students count, the teacher circulates to observe progress, noting and highlighting counting strategies as they emerge.

Standard K.OA.3 calls for students to decompose numbers up to 10 into pairs in more than one way and to record each decomposition by a drawing or an equation. They may, for example, use counters to build the quantity 5 and discover that 5 = 5 + 0, 5 = 4 + 1, 5 = 3 + 2, 5 = 2 + 3, 5 = 1 + 4, and 5 = 0 + 5. Such explorations give students the opportunity to see patterns in the movement of the counters and connect that observation to patterns in the written recording of their equations. As they engage in number sense explorations, activities, and games students develop the capacity to reason abstractly and quantitatively (SMP.2) and to model mathematical situations symbolically and with words (SMP.4).

Grade 1

First grade students undertake direct study of the place value system. They compare two two-digit numbers based on the meanings of the tens and ones digits, a pivotal and somewhat sophisticated concept (SMP.1, 2; 1.NBT.3). To gain this understanding, students need to have worked extensively creating tens from collections of ones and to have internalized the idea of a "ten." Students may count 43 objects, for example, using various approaches. Younger learners typically count by ones, and may show little or no grouping or organization of 43 objects as they count. As they acquire greater confidence and skill, children can progress to counting some of the objects in groups of five or ten and perhaps will still count some objects singly. Once the relationship between ones and tens is better understood, students tend to count the objects in a more adult fashion (SMP.7), grouping objects by tens as far as possible (e.g. 4 groups of ten and 3 units). Teachers support student learning by providing interesting, varied and frequent counting opportunities using games, group activities, and a variety of tools along with focused mathematical discourse. Choral Counting is fun for students, and can also be a powerful means of encouraging pattern discovery, reasoning about numbers and problem solving. An effective Choral Counting experience includes a public recording of the numbers in the sequence (e.g., counting by 3s starting with 4: 4, 7, 10, 13, 16 …) and a discussion in which students share their reasoning as the teacher helps students extend and connect their ideas (Chan Turrou, et al., 2017).

Posing questions as students are engaged in the activities can help a child to see relationships and further develop place value concepts. Some questions might be:

- What do you notice?
- What do you wonder?

- What will happen if we count these by singles?
- What if we counted them in groups of ten?
- How can we be sure there really are 43 here?
- I see you counted by groups of 10 and ones. What if you counted them all by ones? How many would we get?

While the impulse may be to tell students the results will be the same with either counting method, direct instruction is unlikely to make sense to them at this stage. Children must construct this knowledge themselves (J. Van de Walle et al. 2014).

Grade 2

Students in second grade learn to understand place value for 3-digit numbers. They continue the work of comparing quantities with meaning (2.NBT.1) and record these comparisons using the <, =, and > symbols. They need to recognize 100 as a “bundle” of ten tens, and use that understanding to make sense of larger numbers of hundreds (200, 300, 400, etc.) up to 1000 (SMP.6, 7). For numbers up to 1000, they use numerals, number names and **expanded form** as ways of expressing quantities.

Examples:

- to solve 18 + 7, a child may think of 7 as 2 + 5, so 18 + 7 = 18 + 2 + 5 = 20 + 5, which is easier to solve
- 234 = 200 + 30 + 4; 243 = 200 + 40 + 3. Then, 234 < 243.

How do students in grades K–2 learn to compare and order numbers on a line?

Transitional Kindergarten

With extensive practice of counting, TK students establish the foundation for comparing numbers which will later enable them to locate numbers on a line. They engage in activities that introduce the relational vocabulary of *more, fewer, less, same as, greater than, less than,* and *more than.* These activities should be designed in ways that provide students with a variety of structures to practice, engage in, and eventually master the vocabulary. Effective instructors model these behaviors, provide explicit examples, and share their thought process as they use the language. Best-first instruction can create rich, effective discussion where students use developing skills to clarify, inform, question, and eventually employ these conversational behaviors without direct prompting. Such intention supports all students, including ELs, and ensures all learners develop both mathematics content and language facility. Children compare collections of small objects as they play fair share games, and decide who has more; by lining up the two collections side by side, children can make sense of the question and practice the relevant vocabulary. As the learners develop skill in recognizing numerals (PLF.NS –1.2), they can play games with cards, such as Compare (comparing numerals or sets of icons on cards). Each student receives a set of cards with numerals or sets of objects on them (within 5). Working with a partner, each student flips over one card (like the card game "War"). The students decide which card represents *more* or *fewer*, or if the cards are the *same as* (PLF.NS –2 .1; SMP.2; adapted from 2013 *Mathematics Framework*, p. 43).

Kindergarten

Students continue to identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number in another group (K.CC.6) by building small groups of objects and either counting or matching elements within the groups to compare quantities. They learn to add on to a group of objects, and that when an additional item is added, the total number increases by one. Students may need to recount the whole set of objects from one, but the goal is for students to count on from an existing number of objects. This is a conceptual start for the grade-one skill of counting up to 120 starting from any number. Children need considerable repetition and practice with objects they can touch and move to gain this level of abstract and quantitative reasoning (MP.2, 5).

Grade 1

The concept that a ten can be thought of as a bundle of ten ones—called a 'ten' (1.NBT.2a)—is developed in first grade. Students must understand that a digit in the tens place has greater value than the same digit in the ones place (i.e., four 10s is greater than four 1s) and apply this understanding to compare two two-digit numbers and record these comparisons symbolically (1.NBT.3). Students use quantitative and abstract reasoning to make these comparisons (SMP 2) and examine the structure of the place value system (SMP.7) as they develop these essential number concepts. Teachers can have students assemble bundles of ten objects (popsicle sticks or straws, for example) or snap together linking cubes to make tens as a means of developing the concept and noting how the quantities are related. Repetition and guided discussions are needed to support deep understanding.

Grade 2

In second grade, students extend their understanding of place value and number comparison to include three-digit numbers. This learning must build upon a strong foundation in place value at the earlier grades. To compare two three-digit numbers, second graders can take the number apart by place value and compare the number of hundreds, tens, and ones, or they may use counting strategies (SMP 7; 2.NBT.4). For example, to compare 265 and 283, the student can view the numbers as 200 + 60 + 5 compared with 200 + 80 + 3, and note that while both numbers have two hundreds, 265 has only six 10s, while there are eight 10s in 283, so 265 < 283. Another strategy relies on counting: a student who starts at 265 and counts up until they reach 283 can observe that since 283 came after 265, 265 < 283 (MP.7).

How do students learn to add and subtract using numbers flexibly in grades K–2?

Students develop meanings for addition and subtraction as they encounter problem situations in transitional kindergarten through grade two. They expand their ability to represent problems, and they use increasingly sophisticated computation methods to find answers. The quality of the situations, representations, and solution methods selected significantly affects growth from one grade to the next.

Transitional Kindergarten

Young learners acquire facility with addition and subtraction while using their fingers, small objects, and drawings during purposefully designed “play.” They engage in activities that require thinking about and showing one more or one less, and they put together or take apart small groups of objects. When two children combine their collections of blocks or other counting tools, they discover that one set of three added to another set of four makes a total of seven objects. At the TK level, the total is typically found by recounting all seven objects (PLF.NS–2.4). Students need frequent opportunities to act out and solve story situations that call for them to count, recount, put together and take apart collection of objects in order to develop understanding of the operations. Exercises such as having students compose their own addition and subtraction stories for classmates to consider empowers young learners to view themselves as thinkers and doers of mathematics (MP.3, 4).

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners develop understanding of the operations of addition and subtraction actively and tactilely. They consider “addition as putting together and adding to and subtraction as taking apart and taking from” (K.OA.1–5). Students add and subtract small quantities using their fingers, objects, drawings, sounds, by acting out situational problems or explaining verbally (K.OA.1). These means of engagement reflect the CA ELD Standards, in that they ensure ELs are supported by structures that allow for active contributions to class and group discussions, including scaffolds to ask questions, respond appropriately, and provide meaningful feedback.

As students develop their understanding of addition and subtraction, it is essential that they discuss and explain the ways in which they solve problems so that they are simultaneously embodying key mathematical practices. As teachers invite students to use multiple strategies (SMP.1), they bring attention to various representations (SMP.4), and encourage students to express their own thinking verbally and listen carefully as other students explain their thinking (SMP.3, 6).

Grade 1

First graders use addition and subtraction to solve problems within 100 using strategies and properties such as commutativity, associativity, and identity. Students focus on developing and using efficient, accurate, and generalizable methods, although some students may also use invented strategies that are not generalizable.

For example, three children solve 18 + 6:

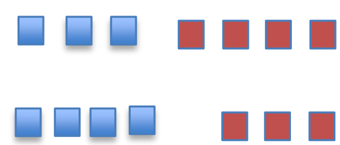
> Clara: I just counted up from 18: So I did 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 (generalizable, accurate).
>
> Malik: I broke the 6 apart into 2 + 4, and then I added 18 + 2, and that’s 20. Then I had to add on the 4, so it’s 24 (efficient, flexible, generalizable).
>
> Asha: I know 6 = 3 + 3, so I added 18 + 3 and that was 21, then 3 more was 24 (flexible).

In this situation, the teacher may choose to conduct a brief discussion of these methods, inviting students to comment on which method(s) work all the time, which are easiest to understand, or which they might wish to use again for another addition problem. Class discussions that allow students to express and critique their own and others' reasoning are instrumental in supporting flexible thinking about number and the development of generalizable methods for addition and subtraction (SMP.2, 3, 4, 6,7). Note that while students in first grade do begin to add two-digit numbers, they do so using *strategies* as distinguished from formal ***algorithms***. The CA CCSSM intentionally place the introduction of a standard algorithms for addition and subtraction in fourth grade (4.NBT.4). It is imperative that students who use invented strategies before learning standard algorithms understand base-ten concepts more fully and are better able to apply their understanding in new situations than students who learn standard algorithms first (Carpenter, et al., 1997).

How does a first grader use properties of operations?

- Commutative Property

When students use direct modeling in addition situations, they discover that the sum of two numbers is the same despite changing the order of the addends.
Example: Using blocks, a child models 3 + 4 and finds the sum is 7.



Next, they model 4 + 3 and again find a sum of 7 and note that the order in which they added did not make a difference in the result.

- Associative Property

To add 8 + 4 + 6, the child "sees" a ten in 4 + 6, so first adds 4 + 6 = 10, and then adds the 8, and finds that 8 + 10 = 18. ******** **** ******

- Identity Property

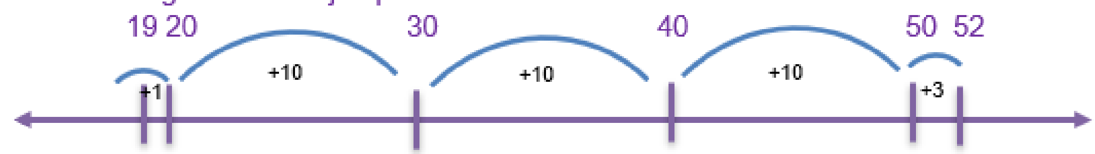
Asked to solve 8 + 0, the first grader counts out 8 cubes and says, "That's all because there's no more cubes to add."

Some strategies to help students develop understanding and fluency with addition and subtraction include the use of **10-frames** or math drawings, **rekenreks**, comparison bars, and **number-bond diagrams**. The use of visuals (e.g., **hundreds charts**, **0–99 charts**, number paths) can also support fluency and number sense.

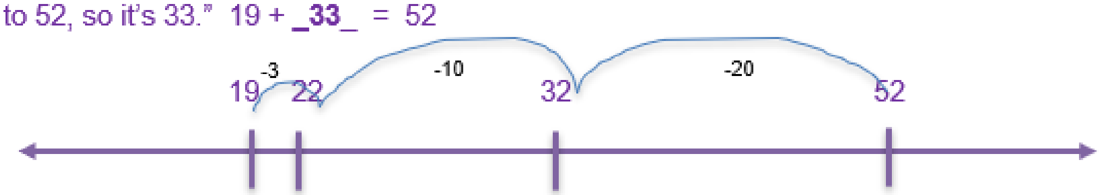
Grade 2

Students in second grade add and subtract numbers within 1000 and explain why addition and subtraction strategies work, using place value and the properties of operations (2.NBT.7, 2.NBT.9, SMP.1, 3, 7). They continue to use concrete models, drawings, and number lines, and work to connect their strategies to written methods.

Examples: Second graders use “jumps” on a number line to solve 52 - 19



Student a) “I started at 19, and went to 20; that was + 1. Then 20 to 30 is 10, and 30 to 40 is ten and 40 to 50 is ten more, so that’s 10 + 10 + 10 plus the one, so that’s 31. And two more to get to 52, so it’s 33.” 19 + _**33**_ = 52



Student b) “I did 52 – 20 = 32, but then I needed to subtract 10 more, so 32 – 10 = 22, and then I’m getting close! 22 – 2 = 20, and I know 20 – 1 = 19. So 20 + 10 + 3 = 33.”

Student c) “Mine was like b’s, but a little bit different. I started at 52, too, but I went 52 – 30 = 22, and then I only had to take away 3 more to get down to 19. So it’s 52 – 30 = 22, and 22 – 3 = 19. So there’s 30 + 3 = 33.”

Note that all three children used number sense strategies to solve the problem and were able to explain their thinking. Student a) used counting up (addition) to solve 52 – 19, while students b) and c) subtracted, moving down the number line from 52 to 19.

Second graders explore many addition and subtraction contextual problem types, including working with **result unknown, change unknown,** and **start unknown** problems (link here to the Common Addition and Subtraction Situations Table GL-4 from 2013 *Mathematics Framework*, to be included in the TK–2 grade band section of Chapter 6. https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/documents/mathfwglossary.pdf). Opportunities to explain their own reasoning and listen to and critique the reasoning of others are essential for students to make sense of each problem type. In the Math talk vignette below, second graders use and explain strategies based on place value and properties of operations and several mathematical practices as they solve two-digit addition problems mentally.

Math Talks TK–2

Math talks, which include number talks, number strings and number strategies, are short discussions in which students solve a math problem mentally, share their strategies aloud, and determine a correct solution, as a whole class (SMP.2, 3, 4, 6). The notion of using language to convey mathematical understanding aligns with the key components of the CA ELD Standards. The focus of a math talk is on comparing and examining various methods so that students can refine their own approaches, possibly noting and analyzing any error they may have made. Participation in math talks provides opportunity for EL students to interact in meaningful ways, as described in the ELD Standards (26–7); effective math talks can advance students' capacity for collaborative, interpretive, and productive communication.

In the course of a math talk, students often adopt methods another student has presented that make sense to them. Math talks designed to highlight a particular type of problem or useful strategy serve to advance the development of efficient, generalizable strategies for the class. These class discussions provide an interesting challenge, a safe situation in which to explore, compare, and develop strategies.

Several types of math talks are appropriate for grades K–2. Some possibilities include:

- Dot talks: A collection of dots is projected briefly (just a few seconds), and students explain how many they saw and the method they used for counting the dots.
- Ten frame pictures: An image of a partially filled ten frame is projected briefly, and students explain various methods they used to figure out the quantity shown in the ten frame.
- Calculation problems: Either an addition or subtraction problem is presented, written in horizontal format and involving numbers that are appropriate for the students' current capacity. Presenting problems in horizontal format increases the likelihood that students will think strategically rather than limit their thinking to an algorithmic approach. For example, first graders might solve 7 + ? = 11 by thinking "7 + 3 = 10, and 1 more makes 11." Second graders subtract two-digit

numbers. To solve 54 - 25 mentally, they can think about 54 - 20 = 24, and then subtract the 5 ones, finding 24 - 5 = 19.

There are also free, online resources that offer excellent math talk ideas.

- The Fresh Ideas segment of Gfletchy.com (https://gfletchy.com) contains a variety of activities and methods for math talks, including geometric math talks. The site also provides downloadable materials and suggestions for building fluency.
- Inside Mathematics (https://www.insidemathematics.org/) includes video examples of math talks from classrooms, grades one through seven.
- Estimation 180 (http://www.estimation180.com/) offers an estimation challenge for each day of the school year. The activities are designed to improve number sense and problem-solving skills.
- Activities, videos, and research findings for math talks can be found at Youcubed (https://www.youcubed.org/).
- At Which One Doesn't Belong? (http://wodb.ca/) find thought-provoking puzzles involving numbers, shapes, or graphs & equations. There are no answers provided as there are many different, correct ways of choosing which one doesn't belong..
- Steve Wyborney's website, https://stevewyborney.com/2017/02/splat/, offers a novel approach to math talks. On *Splat!* slides, arrangements of dots are displayed for a few seconds, and students share their methods of counting, mentally organizing, and grouping to determine the number of dots.
- Search a wide array of games and activities for Grades K–8 at Math Playground (http://www.mathplayground.com/) organized by grade level, topic or type of game.

The games and challenges at Nrich Maths (https://nrich.maths.org/) promote mathematical thinking through games, puzzles, and challenges. The primary section describes good thinkers as "curious, resourceful, collaborative and resilient" and the tasks see to develop these qualities. Print resources rich in math/number talk/number string ideas include *Number Talks*, by Sherry Parrish; *Teaching Arithmetic: Lessons for Extending Multiplication, Grades 4–5*, by Marilyn Burns; *Making Number Talks Matter*, by

C. Humphreys and R. Parker; *Conferring with Young Mathematicians at Work: Making Moments Matter*, by C.T. Fosnot.

Vignette – 2nd Grade: Number Talk with Addition

Early in the school year, second graders have started work with addition. They have been building on first grade concepts, now finding “doubles” with sums greater than 20 (2.NBT.5. Fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction). On this day, the teacher begins the lesson with a number talk. The intention is to model verbal processing based on a string of problems the children have explored in the preceding week with manipulative materials, story problems, and equations, and then to challenge students to calculate mentally, extending their thinking one step beyond previous work (SMP.2, 3, 6). In planning the lesson, the teacher draws on an understanding of the Effective Expression, a key theme for English learners (2014 *ELA/ELD Framework*, Chapter 3, p. 207) to support the implementation of ideas learned from professional development experiences with “5 Practices for Orchestrating Productive Mathematics Discussions” (Smith, M.S., and Stein, M.K., 2019). The teacher anticipates that the students will use several strategies for adding two-digit numbers greater than ten: they may take the numbers apart by place value, they may use a "counting-on" method, they may count by tens, and some may count by ones.

Part I: Interacting in Meaningful Ways

A. Collaborative (engagement in dialogue with others)

1. Exchanging information and ideas via oral communication and conversations
2. Interacting via written English (print and multimedia)
3. Offering opinions and negotiating with or persuading others
4. Adapting language choices to various contexts

B. Interpretive (comprehension and analysis of written and spoken texts)

1. Listening actively and asking or answering questions about what was heard
2. Reading closely and explaining interpretations and ideas from reading
3. Evaluating how well writers and speakers use language to present or support ideas
4. Analyzing how writers use vocabulary and other language resources

C. Productive (creation of oral presentations and written texts)

1. Expressing information and ideas in oral presentations
2. Writing literary and informational texts
3. Supporting opinions or justifying arguments and evaluating others' opinions or arguments
4. Selecting and applying varied and precise vocabulary and other language resources

From the English Language Development Proficiency Level Descriptors and Standards

The teacher reviews the classroom routines and expectations established for number talks:

- The teacher will write a problem on the board and allow students several minutes of quiet thinking time. (It is important that the problem be presented in horizontal format so that students make active choices about how to proceed; when problems are posted in a vertical format, students tend to think use of a formal algorithm is required.)
- Students will think about the problem, and when they have a solution, will show a quiet thumbs-up signal.
- If a student has solved the problem in more than one way, they may show a corresponding number of fingers.

- When all (or almost all) students have found a solution, the teacher asks students to share their response with their elbow partner and to show thumbs up when they are ready to share with the class
- The teacher will invite responses and record students' solutions on the board without commenting on correctness.
- Students will explain, defend, or challenge the recorded solutions, and reach consensus as a class. The teacher refers students to familiar sentence frames to articulate their explanation, defense, or challenges that can reduce students' reluctance to engage and provide a foundation for rich discussion of mathematics.

$10 + 10 = \square$

$13 + 13 = \square$

The first problem posed is 10 + 10 = ◻. As expected on this familiar, well-practiced addition, almost all the children signal thumbs-up within a short time, and all children agree the answer is 20.

The teacher writes a second problem below the first: 13 + 13 = ◻. Several thumbs go up quickly. Some children use their fingers to calculate, others nod their heads as if counting mentally. After a couple of minutes, almost all children have found a solution; they whisper to share their answers with their partners. When the teacher calls for answers, most children say the sum is 26; three children think it is 25. Three students explain how they found 26:

a) I know that 13 is three more than 10, but there were *two* thirteens, and 10 + 10 = 20, so 6 more makes it 26.
b) I started at 13 and counted on 13 more: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.
c) Well, I knew that 10 + 10 was 20, so I just took off the 3s (in the ones place) and added those, and that made 6. So, 20 + 6 = 26.

At this point, one of the children who had thought the sum was 25 raises a hand to explain their thinking.

d) I counted on from 11 too, but I got 25. I went: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.

Another student who had found an answer of 25 explains further:

e) I did that, too, but it's not right! We should have started with 14, not 13, so now I think it's really 26. I changed my mind.

10 + 10 = □

13 + 13 = □

15 + 15 = □

The teacher asks student "e" to tell more about why they changed their answer. The student explains: "Well, if you were adding an easy one, like 4 + 4, you would use four fingers (the child shows 4 fingers on the left hand), and then you add on four more (using the remaining finger on the left hand and then fingers on the right hand), so it goes 5, 6, 7, 8."

The teacher asks the class whether anyone has a challenge or a question. Satisfied, all the students use a signal to say they agree that the correct answer is 26.

The teacher presents the third problem: 15 + 15 = □. Students need more time to think about this one. The teacher can see nods and finger counting and eyes staring up at the ceiling. After about a minute, thumbs start going up. Students offer solutions: 20, 30, and 31.

The teacher points out that this time there are three different answers, so it will be important to listen to all the explanations and decide what the correct answer is.

One student explains how they got 20:

f) See – 1 + 1 is 2, and 5 + 5 = 10, so there's a 2 and a 0, so it's 20.

The teacher thanks child "f" for the explanation and calls on a child who wants to explain the solution of 30.

g) I got 30, because it's really 10 + 10, not 1 + 1. So I got 10 + 10 = 20, and then 5 + 5 = 10. And 20 + 10 = 30. I think "f" maybe forgot that the 1 is really a ten.

Students signal agreement with that statement.

Teacher's record of student thinking:

15 + 15 = ? 20 30 31

Student f) 1 + 1 = 2; 0 + 0 = 0
→ **20**

Student g) 10 + 10 = 20
5 + 5 = 10
20 + 10 = **30**

Student h) Counting up from 15:
Choral counting: 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, ***30***

The teacher asks who can explain the answer 31.

h) I did that one. I was counting on from 15, and it’s hard to keep track of that many fingers so maybe I counted wrong?

The teacher asks if child “h” would like to count on again. The child agrees, and the whole class counts carefully, starting with sixteen: 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 30!

Student “h” smiles and nods agreement that the sum is 30.

One more student shares their method to get 30.

i) What I did was start with the first 15 but then I broke up the other 15 to be 10 + 5. So I added 15 + 10, and that made 25, and 25 + 5 more makes 30.

Student i) 15 + 10 = 25
25 + 5 = 30

The teacher wants to encourage students to note connections between their methods. To make a connection between the methods used by students “h” and “”" visible, the teacher underlines the first 10 numbers in student h’s counting list in green and the remaining five numbers (26 through 30) in blue. Pointing to the list of numbers, the teacher asks the class to think about in what way(s) the methods of students “h” and “i” are alike: *16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.*

The teacher views the day’s number talk as a formative assessment and is satisfied that the lesson provided information about student progress and informed next steps for instruction. Each of the students participated, indicating that the number talk was appropriate to their current level of understanding. Most students showed evidence that they used foundational knowledge that 10 + 10 = 20 to solve the problems, and that previous work with “doubles” was effective. The teacher observes that one EL student used the previously-taught sentence frames and spoke with increased confidence when disagreeing with another student’s solution, and a second EL student shared a solution method publicly for the first time. Upon reflection, the teacher attributes these successes to the intention behind the lesson, which included built-in time to stop at strategic points to explain word meanings, act out (with gestures and facial expressions) the words, and point to an illustration for the word. There were instances where the students repeated key vocabulary chorally, a strategy used to provide all students with the confidence to speak and think like mathematicians.

Many of the students used place value to add two-digit numbers, and could explain their strategy, although a scattering of students relied on a more basic counting-on strategy. Of these, several (students d, e, and h, and possibly more) used faulty counting-on strategies and may need more attention to this topic.

In the next number talk, the teacher will again present two-digit addition problems that do not involve regrouping, to provide further support for students who have so far limited their thinking to the counting-on strategy.

In subsequent lessons, the teacher will move to strings of problems with numbers that do require regrouping, such as: 15 + 15, 16 + 16, and 17 + 17. The intent is to promote the strategy of taking numbers apart by place value when this approach makes solving easier. The teacher recognizes that students need more opportunities to hear how their classmates solve and reason about such problems in order to develop their own understanding and skill. In order for these second graders to enlarge their repertoire of strategies and gain greater place value competence, it will be vital for the teacher to guide rich discussion among the students in which they explain their reasoning, critique their own reasoning and that of others (SMP 2, 3, 6).

Games, Grades K–2

Games are a powerful means of engaging students in thinking about mathematics. Using games and interactives to replace standard practice exercises contributes to students' understanding as well as their affect toward mathematics (Bay-Williams and Kling, 2014). Games typically involve considerable student-to-student oral communication, and represent another opportunity to engage students' conversation around mathematic vocabulary in a low-stakes environment.

A plethora of rich activities related to number sense topics are offered at Nrich Maths' online site (https://nrich.maths.org). For example, in playing the *Largest Even* game, students explore combinations of odd and even numbers in a game format, either online or on paper. Students can discover informal “rules” as they play, such as an odd number plus an odd number is an even number, while an odd number plus an even number yields an odd sum. As they develop winning moves, they practice addition repeatedly and build skill and confidence with the operations as well as deeper understanding of odd and even numbers.

The Youcubed site (https://www.youcubed.org) offers an abundance of low floor-high ceiling tasks, games, and activities. In playing Tic-Tac-Toe Math, for example, partners must select addends strategically in order to reach a desired sum. As students practice, they develop additional strategies and may also use subtraction to solve the problems.

At the Math Playground site (https://www.mathplayground.com/), find a range of games for practicing skills, logic puzzles, story problems, and some videos, intended for grades 1 through 8.

Intermediate Grades, 3–5

The upper elementary grades present significant new opportunities for developing and extending number sense. Three big ideas related to number sense for grades 3–5 (Boaler, J., Munson, J., Williams, C. *What is Mathematical Beauty?*) call for students to:

- Extend their flexibility with number
- Understand the operations of multiplication and division
- Make sense of operations with fractions and decimals
- Use number lines as tools

How is flexibility with number developed in grades 3–5?

Grade 3

A third-grade student’s ability to add and subtract numbers to 1,000 fluently (3.NBT.2) is largely dependent on their ability to think of numbers flexibly, to compose and decompose numbers, and to recognize the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction. For example, a third grader mentally adds 67 + 84 decomposing by place value, and recognizing that: 67 + 84 = (60 + 80) + (7 + 4) = 140 + 11 = 151.

Children who have not yet made sense of numbers in these ways often calculate larger quantities without reflection, sometimes getting unreasonable results. By using number sense, a student can note that 195 is close to 200, so they estimate, before calculating, that the difference between 423 and 195 will be a bit more than 223. This kind of thinking can develop only, as noted above, if students have sufficient, sustained opportunities to "play" with numbers, to think about their relative size, to estimate and reflect on whether their answers make sense (SMP.3, 7, 8).

$$\begin{array}{r} 423 \\ -\ 195 \\ \hline ? \end{array}$$

Students who have developed understanding of place value for three-digit numbers and the operation of subtraction may calculate to solve 423 - 195 in a variety of ways.

Examples of students' thinking and recording of calculation strategies:

Method A:

$$\begin{array}{r} 423 \\ -\ 195 \\ \hline 300 \\ -\ 90 \\ \hline 230 \\ 230 \\ -\ 5 \\ \hline \mathbf{228} \end{array}$$

Method B:

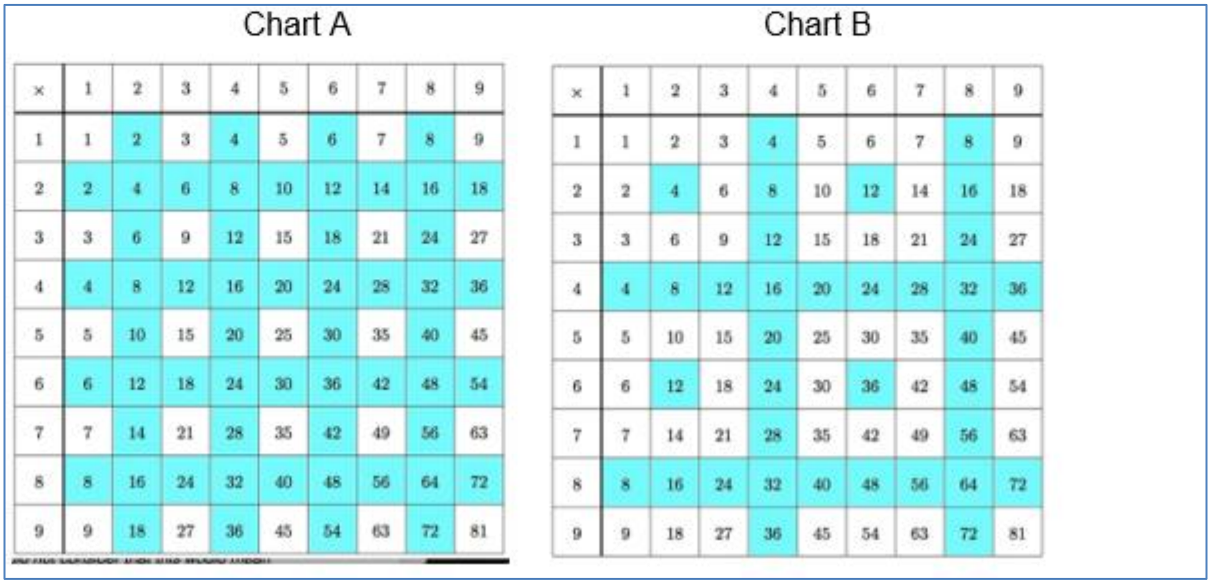
$$423 - 195 \qquad \begin{array}{l} 423 - 100 = 323 \\ 323 - 90 = 233 \\ 233 - 5 = \mathbf{228} \end{array}$$

Grade 4

After their introduction to multiplication in third grade, fourth grade students apply that understanding to identify prime and composite numbers and to recognize that a whole number is a multiple of each of its factors (4.OA.4). An activity such as *Identifying Multiples*, found at Illustrative Mathematics (https://www.illustrativemathematics.org/) provides a visually interesting, reflective mathematics experience. Students explore the multiplication table, and by highlighting multiples with color, they can see patterns and relationships visually. This visual approach serves to cultivate and expand number sense as well as to provide access to EL students and to those for whom visual mathematics and pattern seeking are particular strengths.

Snapshot – Identifying Multiples

Students, working in pairs, have colored in all the multiples of two on chart A, and all the multiples of four on Chart B. They also colored the multiples of three on another chart. The teacher displays these two examples of student work and begins the whole-class conversation by asking, "What do you notice, what do you wonder about these two charts?"



Students respond with their observations, and these are recorded on the whiteboard:

- *There are more numbers colored in on Chart A than on Chart B.*
- *They were really careful with their coloring – it looks pretty!*
- *It makes a pattern.*
- *All the numbers we colored in are even numbers.*
- *On Chart A it goes by twos and on B it goes by fours.*
- *Chart A looks like a checkerboard.*
- *Chart B is sort of like that, too, but the coloring doesn't go all the way across some rows.*
- *All the numbers colored on Chart B are colored in on Chart A, too.*

The goal of this segment of the lesson is for students to examine, make sense of, and offer conjectures to explain why there are half as many multiples of 4 as there are multiples of 2 (SMP.1, 3, 6, 7, 8). Based on the students' observations, the teacher poses a series of questions and prompts for students to investigate, which include:

- How do we know if we found all the multiples on each chart? Convince us.
- Why is it that all the multiples of two and all the multiples of four are even numbers?
- Why are there more multiples of two than multiples of four on our charts?
- You noticed some patterns. Let's think about why the multiples look like a pattern.
- Why does Chart A look like a checkerboard? What does that tell us?

- Why didn't all the numbers in a row such as the sixes row on Chart B get colored in?

The teacher provides a structure for students talk in small groups, addressing one or two of the questions posed (see Pedagogy chapter, including vignettes "Productive Partnerships" and "Peer Revoicing"). The teacher anticipated the discussion and selected some useful questions to support students in this endeavor. During the peer interactions, the teacher circulates among the groups observing and listening as students collaborate. Where appropriate, the teacher guides the discussion using the anticipated questions, supporting academic vocabulary development, and crafting additional probing questions as needed.

Fourth-grade students "round multi-digit numbers to any place" (4.NBT.3). Without a deep understanding of place value, rounding a large number makes no sense, and students often resort to rounding numbers based merely on a set of steps or rules to follow. Third grade students, asked to round 8 to the nearest 100, did not consider that this would mean rounding to zero. On a parallel task for fourth grade from Illustrative Mathematics https://www.illustrativemathematics.org/, *Rounding to the Nearest 100 and 1000,* students with limited understanding of place value are able to round 791 to the nearest 1000, but are less successful with rounding 80 to the nearest 1000. Frequent and thoughtful use of context-based estimation can support students' understanding of rounding (SMP.7, 8).

When students have a legitimate purpose to estimate, the concept of estimation has real meaning. Students might estimate how many gallons of juice to purchase for an upcoming school event, the amount of time needed to walk to the public library, or the budget needed to create a garden on the school campus.

Snapshot - Estimating

Mr. Handy's class has asked the school principal, Ms. Jardin, for funding for to create a vegetable garden on campus. Their proposal pointed out that the students would grow healthy vegetables that could be part of school lunches, and requested enough money to buy the materials needed: fencing, boards and nails to build planter beds, garden soil, a long hose, a few tools, and seeds. Ms. Jardin responded that she is interested in the proposal and is willing to ask the school board for funds if the student council will provide an estimate of the costs. She will need the cost estimate quickly, however, in time for the next school board meeting.

In small groups, the fourth graders excitedly discussed ways to create a reasonable estimate of costs, and listed things they need to consider.

1. What will be the dimensions of the garden, and how much fencing is needed?
2. How many and how large will the planter beds be?
3. How many tools would be needed? Which tools?
4. How long will the hose need to be?
5. Which seeds will they choose and how many packages should they buy?
6. What is the price of:
    a. fencing?
    b. boards for planter beds?
    c. garden soil?
    d. tools?
    e. hose?
    f. seeds?

Mr. Handy circulated, listening as groups discussed and collecting their ideas on a list. He gathered the class to view the emerging list and guided the groups toward consensus. Each group assumed responsibility for finding prices and estimating how much would be needed of a specific item. Mr. Handy reminded students that the goal is a reasonable *estimate*, not an exact amount, and that time was limited. Further, as the groups determine reasonable quantities and prices, they should round these numbers to the nearest ten or hundreds place as appropriate.

Students used online resources to search for reasonable prices for the items; rounded the prices to simplify the estimation task. They brought their results to Mr. Handy, who reviewed ideas and consulted with any groups needing additional support. Once estimates were ready for submission, each group recorded their recommendations on a shared spreadsheet. The students concluded the lesson with great enthusiasm and anticipation of a successful outcome for their proposal.

Context and meaning matter in supporting students' understanding of mathematics content. Memorizing rules about whether to round up or down based on the last digits of a number may produce correct responses some of the time, but little conceptual development is accomplished with such rules.

Grade 5

Fifth grade marks the last grade level at which Number and Operations in Base Ten is an identified domain in the California Common Core State Standards. At this grade, students work with powers of ten, use exponential notation, and can "explain patterns in the placement of the decimal point when a decimal is multiplied by a power of 10" (5.NBT.2). Fifth grade students are expected to fully understand the place value system, including decimal values to thousandths (SMP.7; 5.NBT.3). The foundation laid at earlier grades is of paramount importance in a fifth grader's accomplishment of these standards.

> **C**oncrete
> **R**epresentational
> **A**bstract
>
> Students develop the ability to think about mathematical concepts abstractly at varying rates. Their understanding of new concepts is enhanced by working first with concrete materials, and then representing concepts with visual models before moving to abstractions (Van deWalle, 2014).

To build conceptual understanding of decimals, students benefit from concrete and representational materials and consistent use of precise language. When naming a number such as 2.4, it is imperative to read it as "2 and 4 tenths" rather than "2 point 4" in order to develop understanding and flexibility with number. Base ten blocks are typically used in the primary grades with the small cube representing one whole unit, a rod representing 10 units and a 10 by 10 flat representing 100. If instead, the large, 3-dimensional cube is used to represent the whole, students have a tactile, visual model to consider the value of the small cube, the rod, and the 10 by 10 flat. Another useful tool is a printed 10 by 10 grid. Students visualize the whole grid as representing the whole, and can shade in various decimal values. For example, if two columns plus an additional five small squares are shaded on the grid, the student can visualize that value as 1.25 or $1\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole. When decimal numbers are read correctly, e.g., reading .25, as "twenty-five hundredths," students can make a natural connection between the decimal form and the fractional form, noting that "twenty-five hundredths" can be written as the fraction 25/100, which simplifies to 1/4.

Fifth-grade students use equivalent fractions to solve problems; thus, it is essential that they have a strong grasp of equality (SMP.6) and have developed facility with using benchmark fractions (e.g., 1/2, 2/3, 3/4) to reason about, compare, and calculate with fractions. Experiences with placing whole numbers, fractions, and decimals on the number line contribute to building fraction number sense. Students need time and opportunity to collaborate, critique, and reason about where to place the numbers on the number line (SMP 2, 3). For example, where might 4/7 be placed in relation to 1/2?

How do children in grades 3–5 develop understanding of the operations of multiplication and division?

Grade 3

Building understanding of multiplication and division comprises a large part of the content for third grade. These students first approach multiplication as repeated addition of equal size groups. Then, as they apply multiplication to measurement concepts, they view multiplication in terms of arrays and area. Students who make sense of numbers are likely to develop accurate, flexible and efficient methods for multiplication. For example, to multiply 8 × 7, a student may find an easy approach by decomposing the 7 into 5 + 2 and thinking: 8 x 5 = 40; 8 x 2 = 16; 40 + 16 = 56. Children with well-developed number sense readily make successful use of the distributive property (SMP>7; 3.OA.5).

Grade 4

Concepts of multiplication advance in fourth grade, when students first encounter multiplication as comparison. Problems now include language such as “three times as much” or “twice as long.” Students need to be able to make sense of such problems and be able to illustrate them (SMP.1, 5). Strip diagrams, number lines, and drawings that represent a story’s context can support students as they develop understanding. This knowledge will serve them well as they begin to solve fraction multiplication problems, in which comparison contexts are frequently involved.

To multiply multi-digit numbers with understanding (4.NBT.5), fourth graders need to have internalized place value concepts. When thinking about 4 x 235, for example, the student can use front-end estimation to recognize that the product will be greater than 800, because 4 x 200 = 800. Students who consistently and intentionally use mathematical practices (SMP.1, 2, 6), will continue to make sense of multiplication as larger quantities and different contexts and applications are introduced.

Vignette – Grade 4: Multiplication

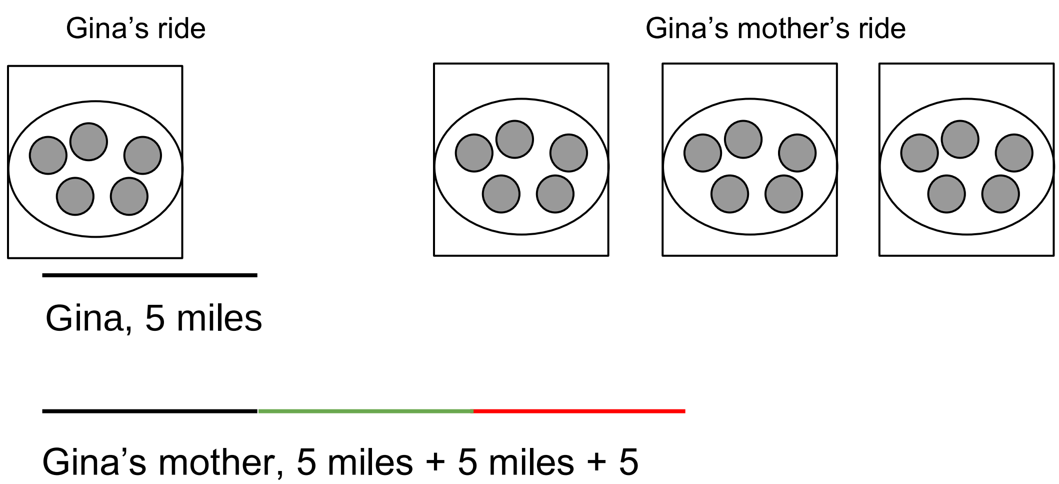
As the fourth-grade students were beginning work with multiplication as comparison (4.OA.2 Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem, distinguishing multiplicative comparison from additive comparison), the teacher selected comparison problems for the students to solve. The teacher designed the lesson keeping in mind the needs of several students in the class who have learning differences. Students may work alone or with a partner, with the expectation that they would use verbal or written expression, tools and/or drawings to make sense of the problems (SMP.1, 5), and then solve and illustrate each (see Chapter 2 for more on UDL and ELD strategies).

1. Gina rode her bike five miles yesterday. Her mother rode her bike three times as far. How far did Gina's mother ride?

Students' answers for Problem number one included "eight" and "15." The class had previously used number line diagrams and tape diagrams to solve addition and subtraction problems.

- Two students wrote 5 + 3 = 8, but provided no illustration or explanation.
- Several students drew number lines showing 5 mi. + 3 mi. (8 miles)
- One student drew a tape diagram showing 5 mi. + 3 mi. (8 miles)
- Students who answered 15 showed several different illustrations, not all of which capture or reflect the context of the problem:

A.



B.

Students’ work on the second problem showed less understanding. This was evident in the work samples of many students; the teacher noted that several students with learning differences particularly struggled with making sense of problem two.

2. *The tree in my backyard is 12 feet tall. My neighbor’s tree is 36 feet tall. How many times as tall is my neighbor’s tree compared to mine?*

Few of the fourth graders recognized this as a multiplication situation. Almost all the students either subtracted or added the numbers in the problem: 36 – 12 = 24 feet tall or 12 + 36 = 48 feet tall. Only two pairs of students solved the problem correctly, either dividing 36 ÷ 12 = 3 or setting up a multiplication equation, 3 x □ = 36, and concluding that the neighbor’s tree is 3 times as tall as mine.

The teacher was puzzled by the differences between students’ work on the two problems. After reviewing the various approaches to multiplication in Table X. Common Multiplication and Division Situations (see Chapter 6) the teacher recognized that the two-story problems were of quite different types. The first is a result unknown problem. In the second problem, the number of groups is the unknown, a conceptually more difficult situation. Comparison multiplication problems add a level of complexity for EL students and others who may be less experienced with the use of academic language in mathematics.

As a follow-up lesson, the teacher decided the class would explicitly address the concept of multiplication as comparison. The teacher will pose a few story situations based on her students’ lives and experiences. To solve the problems, the students will need to think about “how many times as much/many.” Contexts for such problems could include:

- This recipe makes only seven muffins. If we bake 4 times as many muffins for our social studies celebration, will that be enough for our class?
- Mayu’s uncle is 26-years old. His grandmother is two times as old as his uncle. How old is his grandmother?
- Amalia is nine years old. Her sister is three years old. How many times as old as her sister is Amalia?
- Avi has eight pets (counting his goldfish); Laz has two pets. How many times as many pets does Avi have compared to Laz?

Students will then solve the second problem from the previous lesson (again) with partners and share solutions as a class. The teacher will carefully pair EL students and others with language needs with students who can support their language acquisition. As students discuss with partners their ideas about what it means to compare, and how it can be multiplication, the teacher will use a *Collect and Display* routine (SCALE, 2017). As students discuss their ideas with their partners, the teacher will listen for and record in writing the language students use, and may sketch diagrams or pictures to capture students' own language and ideas. These notes will be displayed during an ensuing class conversation, when students collaborate to make and strengthen their shared understanding. Students will be able to refer to, build on, or make connections with this display during future discussion or writing.

Once fortified with a firmer understanding of multiplication as comparison, students will examine the three answers to the second problem that were previously recorded (24 feet, 48 feet, and three times as tall), and determine together which operation, what kind of illustration, and which solution makes sense in the context of the problem (SMP.2, 3, 5). The class discussion will give students the opportunity to reason about multiplication comparison situations and contrast these with additive comparison situations.

The teacher referred to fourth-grade Illustrative Mathematics (illustrativemathematics.org) and found a task that would provide further experience with comparison multiplication situations, *Comparing Money Raised*. The discussion of the task and illustrations and explanations of various solution methods provide the teacher with additional insights.

Grade 5

Understanding place value and how the operations of multiplication and division are related allows fifth grade students to "find whole-number quotients of whole numbers with up to four-digit dividends and two-digit divisors" (5.NBT.6) A student can solve 354 ÷ 6 by decomposing 354 and dividing each part by six, applying the distributive property. Thinking that 354 = 300 + 54, they can divide 300 by 6, and then 54 by 6 mentally or with paper and pencil. 300 ÷ 6 = 50; 54 ÷ 6 = 9, and 50 + 9 = 59. Therefore, 364 ÷ 6 = 59. Or a student could use multiplication to solve 354 ÷ 6 by thinking 60 x 6 = 360, and then considering that 59 x 6 = 360 - 6, and 360 - 6 = 354. In words, the student can express that it takes 60 sixes to make 360, and it would take one less six (59 rather than 60) to make 354.

How do children in grades 3–5 come to make sense of operations with fractions and decimals?

The grade five standards state that students will "Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions" (5.NF.3 – 7). This is a challenging expectation and deserves attention at every grade level. The majority of story problems and tasks children experience in the younger grades rely on contexts in which things are counted rather than measured to determine quantities (how *many* apples, books, children, etc., vs. how *far* did they travel, how *much* does it weigh). However, measurement contexts more readily allow for fractional values, and are helpful when working with fractions. A student who solves a measurement problem involving whole numbers will be able to apply the same reasoning to a problem in which fractions are needed. For example, weights of animals can serve as the context for subtraction comparisons. Our dog weighs 28 pounds and our neighbor's dog weighs 34 pounds. How much more does the neighbor's dog weigh than our dog?) and the same thinking is needed if weights involve decimals or fractions (28.75 pounds vs. 34.4 pounds). The use of decimals and fractions makes it possible to describe situations with more precision.

To support students as they make connections between operations with whole numbers and operations with fractions, attention should be given to a greater balance between "counting" and "measuring" problem contexts throughout grades TK–5.

Grade 3

A major component of third grade content is the introduction of fractions. Students focus on understanding fractions as equal parts of a whole, as numbers located on the number line, and they use reasoning to compare unit fractions. (3.NF.1, 2, 3). Particular attention needs to be given to developing a firm understanding of 1/2 as a basis for comparisons, equivalence and benchmark reasoning. In tasks such as *"Locating Fractions Less than One on the Number Line"* found at Illustrative Mathematics (https://www.illustrativemathematics.org) students partition the whole on a number line into equal halves, fourths, and thirds and locate fractions in their relative positions.

Grade 4

At this grade, students build understanding of fraction equivalence; they illustrate and explain why fractions are equivalent. Students can strengthen their understanding of fraction equivalence by engaging in games that provide practice, such as Matching Fractions or Fractional Wall, found at Nrich Maths https://nrich.maths.org. Fourth graders add and subtract fractions with like denominators, relying on the understanding that every fraction can be expressed as the sum of unit fractions. 7/4, then, can be expressed as ¼ + ¼ + ¼ + ¼ + ¼ + ¼ + ¼. They “apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number (4.NF.4)” when solving word problems. They represent their thinking with diagrams (number lines, strip diagrams), pictures, and equations (SMP.2, 5, 7). This work lays the foundation for further operations fractions in 5th grade.

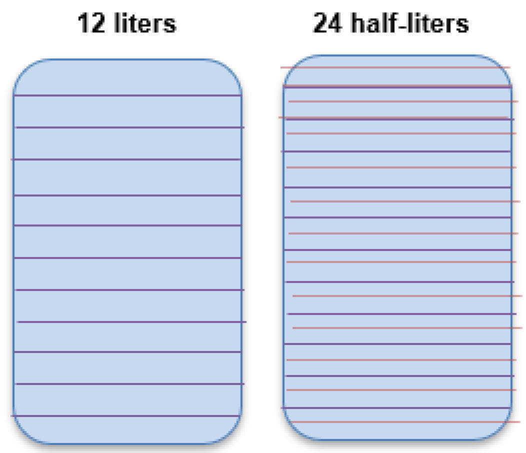
Grade 5

Fifth grade students will apply their understanding of equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (5.NF.1). They multiplied fractions by whole numbers in fourth grade; now they extend their understanding of multiplication concepts to include multiplying fractions in general (5.NF.4). Division of a whole number by a unit fraction (12 ÷ ½) and division of a unit fraction by a whole number (½ ÷12) are challenging concepts that are introduced in fifth grade (5.NF.7). To make sense of division with fractions, students must rely on a previously formed understanding of division in both partitive (fair-share) and quotitive (measurement) situations for whole numbers. The terms partitive and quotitive are important for teachers’ understanding; students may use the less formal language of fair-share and measurement. What is essential is that students recognize these two different ways of thinking about division as they encounter contextual situations. Fifth-grade students who understand that 12 ÷ 4 can be asking “how many fours in 12” (quotitive view of division) can use that same understanding to interpret 12 ÷ ½ as asking “how many ½’s in 12?” (Van de Walle, et.al, 2014, P. 235). Applying understanding of operations with whole numbers to the same operations with fractions relies on students’ use of sophisticated mathematical reasoning and facility with various ways of representing their thinking (SMP.1, 5, 6).

How might fifth grade students approach a problem such as this? *To make banners for the celebration, the teacher bought a 12-yard roll of ribbon. If each banner takes ½ yard of ribbon, how many banners can be made from the 12-yard roll of ribbon?*

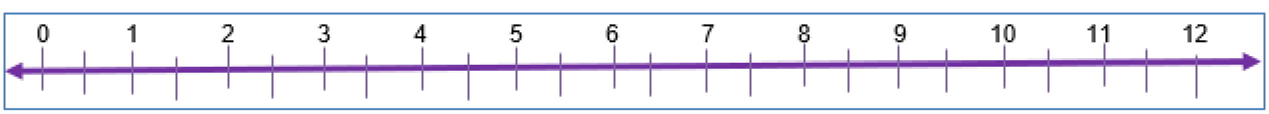
A quotitive interpretation of division and a number line illustration can be used to solve this problem. If a length of 12 yards is shown, and ½ - yard lengths are indicated along the whole 12 yards, the solution, that 24 banners can be made because there are 24 lengths of 1/2 yard, becomes visible.

For the foot race in the park tomorrow, our running coach bought a 12-liter container of water. We plan to fill water bottles for the runners. We will pour ½ liter of water into each bottle. How many bottles can we fill? Will we have enough water for all of the 28 runners?



A quotitive interpretation of division and a picture or a number line illustration can be used to solve this problem. The student began by illustrating a quantity of 12 liters. The student then marks ½-liter sections horizontally and finds there are 24 half liters.

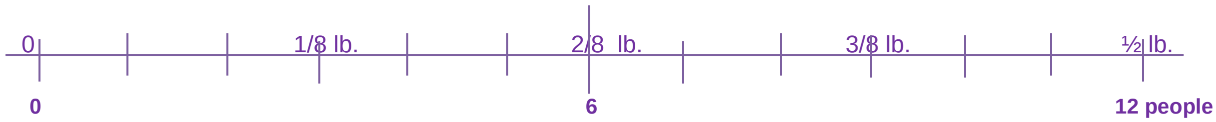
A number line illustration:



In either case, students can visually recognize that 24 water bottles can be filled because there are 24 half-liters in 12 whole liters (SMP.1, 2, 4, 5, 6).

To understand what ½ ÷ 12 means as partitive division, a suitable context might involve ½ pound of candy to be shared among 12 people, and asking how much each person would get. A picture or number line representation can be used to illustrate the story. The solution can be seen by separating the ½ pound into 12 equal parts, and finding that each portion represents 1/24 of a pound of candy.

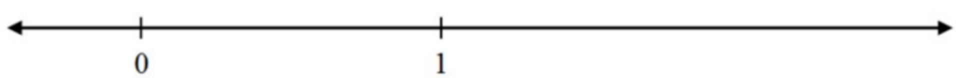
Sense-making for fraction division becomes accessible when students discuss their reasoning about problems set in realistic contexts, and use visual models and representations to express their ideas to others (SMP1, 3, 6).



How do students in Grades 3–5 use number lines as tools?

Grade 3

Younger grade students use number lines to order and compare whole numbers and to illustrate addition and subtraction situations. In third grade, children extend their reasoning about numbers. They begin using number lines to represent fractions and to solve problems involving measurement of time (3.NF.2, 3.MD.1, SMP.3, 5).

> Example: In this third-grade task, “Find 1/4, Starting From 1,” from Illustrative Mathematics, students need to reason about where 1/4 is located. This calls for understanding that 1/4 means 1 of four equal parts, and that we can represent that quantity as a location on the number line, one-fourth the distance between 0 and 1 whole.
>
> The number line below shows two numbers, 0 and 1.
>
> 
>

Grade 4

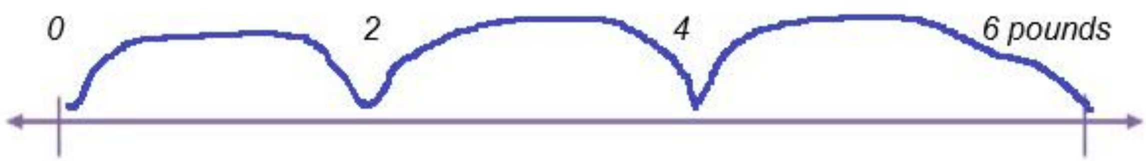
Fourth graders develop facility with naming and representing equivalent fractions, and begin to use decimal notation for fractions. They continue to build their capacity to locate and interpret values on a number line (4.NF.1, 2, 6, 7, SMP.1, 5, 7). Students can find equivalent names for fractions, determine the relative size of fractions and decimal fractions, and use reasoning to locate these numbers on a number line. For example, a task might provide a number line on which the numbers 0 and 1.5 are identified, and students use their understanding of fractions to locate 0.75, 5/4, 4/8 and 1/3.

Grade 5

Fifth graders apply strategies and understandings from previous grade level experiences with multiplication and division to make sense of multiplication and division of fractions

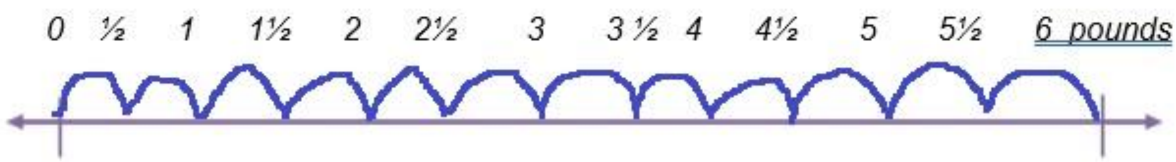
(5.NF.6, 7c, SMP.1, 2, 5, 6). This includes using the number line as a tool to represent problem situations. Multiplication and division with fractions can be conceptually challenging. By making explicit connections between thinking strategies and representations previously used for whole number multiplication and division, teachers can support students' developing understanding of these operations.

Whole number example:
We harvested 6 pounds of radishes in our garden, and put 2 pounds into each basket. How many baskets did we use?



We used three baskets. (Illustration should show "two-pound jumps," starting at 6 and working backwards along the number line to represent the three baskets needed.)

Parallel fraction example:
We harvested six pounds of radishes in our garden. We put radishes into bags, placing 1/2 pound of radishes in each bag. How many bags did we fill?



Using the same strategy as before, we can see that we filled 12 bags. (illustration should show equal ½ pound "jumps," starting at six and working backwards along the number line to represent the twelve bags of radishes. A very rough start on this is shown from six to zero, above).

Math Talks, Grades 3–5

Math talks, which include number talks, number strings and number strategies, are short discussions in which students solve a math problem mentally, share their strategies aloud, and as a class determine a correct solution. The notion of using language to convey mathematical understanding aligns with the key components of the CA ELD Standards. The focus of a math talk is on comparing and examining various methods so that students can refine their own approaches, possibly noting and analyzing any error they may have made. Participation in math talks provides opportunity for EL students to interact in meaningful ways, as described in the ELD Standards (p. 26–7); math talks can advance students' capacity for collaborative, interpretive, and productive communication.

In the course of a math talk, students often adopt methods another student has presented that make sense to them. Math talks designed to highlight a particular type of problem or useful strategy serve to advance the development of efficient, generalizable strategies for the class. These class discussions provide an interesting challenge, a safe situation in which to explore, compare, and develop strategies. Math talks in grades 3–5 can strengthen, support, and extend place value understanding, calculation strategies, and fraction concepts.

Some examples of problem types might include:

- Multiplication calculations for which students can use known facts and place value understanding and apply properties to solve a two-digit by one-digit problem. For example, if students know that 6 x 10 = 60 and 6 x 4 = 24, they can calculate 6 x 14 = 84 mentally. Presenting such calculation problems in horizontal format increases the likelihood that students will think strategically rather than limit their thinking to an algorithmic approach.
- Students can use relational thinking to consider whether 42 + 19 is greater than, less than, or equal to 44 + 17, and explain their strategies.
- Asking students to order several fractions mentally encourages the use of strategies such as common numerators and benchmark fractions. For example: arrange in order, least to greatest, and explain how you know: 4/5, 1/3, 4/8.

There are some excellent free, online resources that offer math talk ideas.

- The Fresh Ideas segment of Gfletchy.com (https://gfletchy.com) contains a variety of activities and methods for math talks, including geometric math talks. The site also provides downloadable materials and suggestions for building fluency.
- Inside Mathematics (https://www.insidemathematics.org/) includes video examples of math talks from classrooms, grades 1 through 7.
- Activities, videos, and research findings for math talks can be found at Youcubed (https://www.youcubed.org/).
- Steve Wyborney's website, https://stevewyborney.com/2017/02/splat/, offers a novel approach to math talks. On Splat! slides, arrangements of dots are

displayed for a few seconds; students share their methods of counting, mentally organizing, and grouping to determine the number of dots.

- Interesting images of fractions available at the free Fraction Talks site (http://fractiontalks.com/) invite students to reason about, discuss, and debate fractional parts of a whole. Helpful guidance for how to use the images is provided.
- Search a wide array of games and activities for Grades K–8 at Math Playground (http://www.mathplayground.com/) organized by grade level, topic or type of game.
- The games and challenges at Nrich Maths (https://nrich.maths.org/) promote mathematical thinking through games, puzzles, and challenges. The primary section describes good thinkers as "curious, resourceful, collaborative and resilient" and provides tasks to develop these qualities.

Print resources rich in math talks, including number talk/number string ideas, include *Number Talks*, by Sherry Parrish; *Teaching Arithmetic: Lessons for Extending Multiplication, Grades 4–5*, by Marilyn Burns; *Making Number Talks Matter*, by C. Humphreys and R. Parker; *Conferring with Young Mathematicians at Work: Making Moments Matter*, by C.T. Fosnot.

Games, Grades 3–5

Games are a powerful means of engaging students in thinking about mathematics. Using games and interactives to replace standard practice exercises contributes to students' understanding as well as their affect toward mathematics. A plethora of rich activities related to number sense topics are offered at Nrich Maths' website, https://nrich.maths.org/9413. For example, the Factors and Multiples game challenges students to find factors and multiples on a hundreds grid in a game format, either online or on paper. As students discover strategies based on prime and square numbers, they can develop winning moves and gain insight and confidence in recognizing multiples, primes, and square numbers.

The Youcubed site offers an abundance of **low floor-high ceiling tasks**, games, and activities designed to engage students in thinking about important mathematics in visual, contextual ways. In playing Prime Time (https://www.youcubed.org/tasks/prime-time/), partners practice multiplication on the hundreds chart in an interactive and engaging visual activity.

At the Math Playground site (https://www.mathplayground.com/), find a range of games for practicing skills, logic puzzles, story problems, and some videos, intended for grades 1 through 8.

Middle Grades, 6–8

As students enter the middle grades, the number sense they have acquired in the elementary grades deepens. Students transition from exploring numbers and arithmetic operations in K–5 to exploring relationships between numbers and making sense of contextual situations using various representations. MP 2 is especially critical at this stage, as students represent a wide variety of real-world situations through the use of real numbers and variables in expressions, equations, inequalities.

- Number line understanding
- Proportions, ratios, percents, and relationships among these
- See **generalized numbers** as leading to algebra

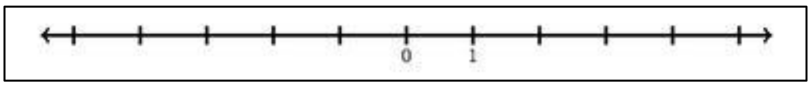
How is Number Line Understanding Demonstrated in Grades 6–8?

Grade 6

In helping students create a visual understanding for numbers, number lines are an essential tool. Students' first work with number lines begins in second grade as they use number lines to count by positive integers, and also use number lines to determine whole number sums and differences. In third grade, students use number lines to place and compare fractions, as well as to help solve word problems. In fourth grade, students extend their use of number lines to include decimals. In fifth grade, students use number lines as a visual model to operate with fractions. They are also introduced to coordinate planes in fifth grade. In sixth grade, rational numbers, as a set of numbers that includes whole numbers, fractions and decimals, and their opposites, are seen as points on a number line and (6.NS.6), and as points in a coordinate plane (6.NS.6.b and c), which expands on the fifth-grade view of coordinate planes. Ordered pairs, in the form (a,b), are introduced as the notation to describe the location of a point in a coordinate plane. Sets of numbers can often be efficiently represented on number lines, and, at the 6th grade level, students are introduced to the strategy of representing solution sets of inequalities on a number line (6.EE.8).

Students also see the relationship between absolute value of a rational number and its distance from 0 (6.NS.7.c), and use number lines to make sense of negative numbers, including in contexts such as debt. The task below demonstrates an example of how number lines can be used to achieve an understanding of the connection between “opposites” and positive/negative.

Task (adapted from Illustrative Math, “Integers on the Number Line 2”)
Below is a number line with 0 and 1 labeled:



We can find the opposite of 1, labeled -1, by moving 1 unit past 0 in the opposite direction of 1. In other words, since 1 is one unit to the right of 0 then -1 is 1 unit to the left of 0.

1. Find and label the numbers −2 and −4 on the number line. Explain.

2. Find and label the numbers −(−2) and −(−4) on the number line. Explain.

   As two quantities vary proportionally, double number lines capture this variance in a dynamic way. Grade 6 students are introduced to the strategy of using double number lines to represent whole number quantities that vary proportionally (6.RP.3). The Mixing Paint example in Chapter 7 provides an illustration of the double number line strategy for a Grade 6 ratio and proportion problem.

Grade 7
In seventh grade, students will develop a unified number understanding that includes all types of numbers they have seen previously in the standards. That is, they understand fractions, decimals, percents, integers, and whole numbers as types of rational numbers and attend to precision in their use of these words (SMP 6). Every fraction, decimal, percent, integer and whole number can be written as a rational number, defined to be the ratio of two integers, and understandings of fractions, decimals, percents, integers and whole numbers can all be subsumed into a larger understanding of rational numbers.

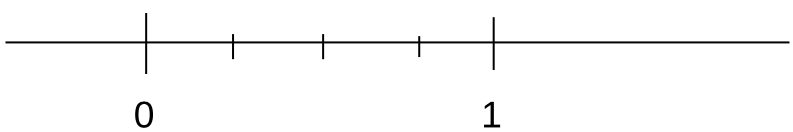
This unified understanding is achieved, in part, through students' use of number lines to represent operations on rational numbers, such as the addition and subtraction of rational numbers on a number line (7.NS.1).

For students, the mechanics of using a number line to represent operations on rational numbers rests upon two realizations: 1) rational numbers are locations on the number line and 2) the distances between rational numbers are also rational numbers. Teachers should use activities which promote the understanding of these two realizations. For the addition of two rational numbers, for example, the first number can be seen as fixing a location, while the second number refers to the distance moved away from the first number. The following snapshot illustrates this relationship.

Snapshot: Visualizing Fractions On and Within a Number Line

Ms. V knows that her students struggle with labeling fractions on a number line. She poses the following task to them:

> In looking at the number line diagram below, the quantity ¼ appears more than once. Talk with your partner about all the ways ¼ occurs in the diagram. How many can you and your partner come up with?



> Most student pairs recognize that the first tickmark to the right of 0 can be labeled with ¼. The pairs struggle in coming up with a second place that ¼ is seen. Ms. V asks them if they can label the other tick marks. They can see that the middle tickmark can be labeled as ½. Ms. V then encourages them to think of 1/2 as 2/4. One pair excitedly raises their hand "there is another 1/4 to get from 1/4 to the 2/4!" Ms. V asks them where this appears on the diagram and one of the pair places it between the 1/4 and 2/4 tickmarks. The other students offer the other "between tickmark" places as other appearances of 1/4. Thus, they see that 1/4 only occurs once, as a location, but it occurs four times as a distance or length.

This two-fold usage of number lines, to represent locations and distances, is used to solidify further ideas: opposite quantities, known as additive inverses, combine to make 0

(7.NS.1a); subtraction is actually addition of an additive inverse, and the distance between two rational numbers is the absolute value of their difference (7.NS.1c).

Seventh graders also extend the use of double number lines that represent whole number quantities (introduced in Grade 6, 6.RP.3) to now include fractional quantities that vary proportionally (7.RP.1). The following vignette illustrates how a teacher supports students in building this extension.

Vignette – Grade 7: Using a Double Number Line

Mr. K has noticed that his students struggle with rate problems, especially when they involve fractions. He hopes to help them achieve a better visual understanding of how two quantities vary together proportionally by structuring their thinking around a model of a double number line using the following problem:

Walking at a constant speed, Dominica walks 4/5 of a mile every 2/3 of an hour. How far does she walk in one hour?

The class has often discussed “making a problem easier” as a strategy, so Mr. K employs this approach by asking them to consider the case where “If Dominica walks 2.5 miles in a 1/2 hour, how far does she walk in 1 hour?” The class quickly offers that since she has walked double the time, then she walks double the distance. Mr. K applauds their ability to use “doubling” to arrive at the answer and that they can generalize this to “halving” or “tripling”, etc. He frames using a double number line as a way to harness multiplying and dividing to find answers.

He then draws a double number line and labels the top line with miles and the bottom line with hours (to reinforce that distance per unit of time is a common way to label speed).

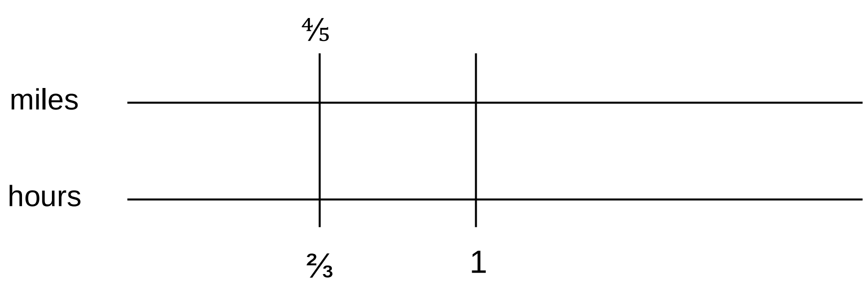
Miles

Hours

He then positions the class back to the original question and asks the students to place a vertical bar indicating Dominica’s rate and label it. Students immediately want to know where to place it, and he encourages them to choose a location for themselves, but with plenty of room on both sides. Most students place the line near the center.

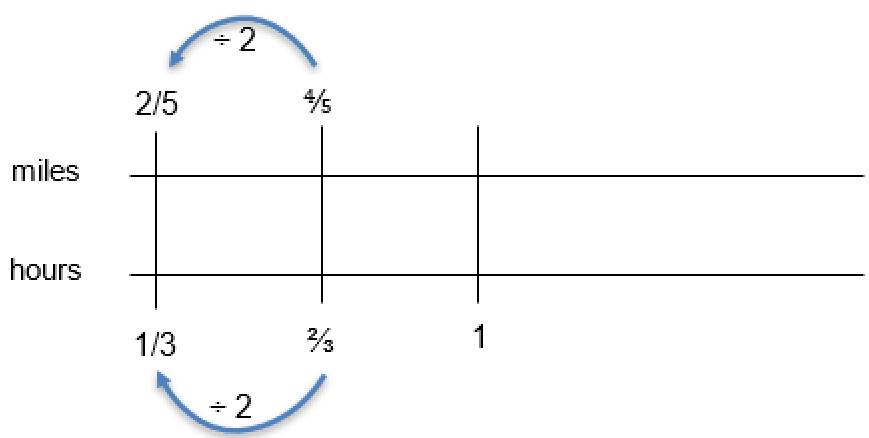
Next, he asks the class to re-read the problem and share with a neighbor what they are trying to find. He collects responses at the front, which vary from “how fast she goes in an hour,” to “how far she goes in an hour” to “how long she is walking.” He is heartened to hear the varied responses as these indicate the students are grappling with the very concepts he wants them to be thinking about: speed, distance, and time. A brief class discussion ensues where they discuss each of these words and phrases in turn, and create word bubbles of related words and phrases (fast, speed, rate, velocity, miles per hour), (distance, how far, length, miles, feet, inches, centimeters), (time, how long, hours, minutes, seconds). One student points out how certain phrases are tricky, like “length of time,” which seems to indicate distance but actually refers to an amount of time.

Eventually, the class agrees that the question at the end of the problem indicates that they should be looking for a distance, in miles, that Dominica has traveled in one hour. So Mr. K asks the students to place another vertical bar at the one hour location. Most students agree that it should be to the right of 2/3 hrs. since 1 is greater than 2/3.

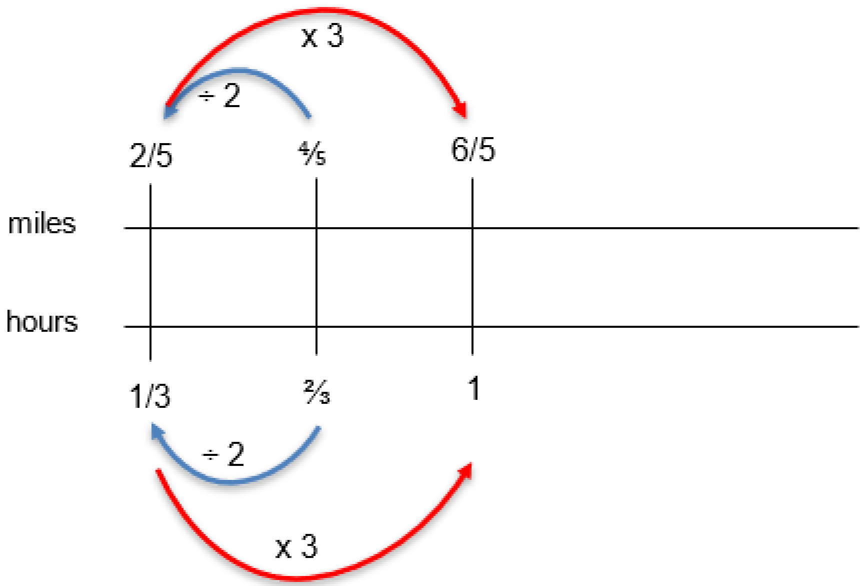


Students immediately try to guess the number of miles corresponding to one hour of walking, and Mr. K is glad to see the enthusiasm. Several students recognize that it takes 1/3 added on to 2/3 to get, so then the conclude that adding 1/3 to 4/5 gives the number of miles. A conversation ensues that this might not work, and they look to Mr. K for direction. Mr. K encourages them to think about the simpler case at the outset of their work. From looking at the simpler case, several students recognize that adding ½ to both results in 3 miles for 1 hour of walking, which differs from their prior answer. Since this is at the heart of the difference between thinking additively, and thinking multiplicatively, Mr. K asks them to consider why this does not work. After some time, one student offers that since the number lines represent different quantities, the top is miles and bottom is hours, adding the same quantity to each is “sort of mixing the miles and hours together, in a way.” A different student observes that, in the first case, 2.5 to 1/2 is different than 3 to 1. A third student states this as “her rate of walking changes when you add the same to both quantities, and it’s supposed to be the same.” Mr. K applauds these justifications and pauses for students to write these three observations down in their journals before moving on.

The class is quiet for a bit as they think about another approach. One student says “it’s a little over 1”. When Mr. K asks why, they state that they used half of the hours to do it, then “jumped up” to get to 1. The student demonstrates on the double number line by first drawing the blue arrow below and labeling it while saying “divide by 2 to get to 1/3 hours”. They then draw and label the top blue arrow to demonstrate how one-half of 4/5 is 2/5.



Lastly, the student draws, then labels the bottom red arrow to demonstrate “to get to 1 you have to multiply by 3.” They do the same to the top red arrow, indicating that multiplying 2/5 by 3 gives the answer of 6/5 miles.



One student offers a different way, saying "I multiplied by 3 first, then cut it in half." They demonstrate on the board that to get from 2/3 to 2 they used a "tripling" approach, then "halving." The first student points out that tripling is the same as multiplying by 3, and halving is the same as dividing by 2, so the second student adds that annotation to their diagram.

Grade 8

In eighth grade, students' understanding of rational numbers is extended in two important ways. First, rationals have decimal expansions which eventually repeat, and, vice versa, all numbers with decimal expansions which eventually repeat are rational (8.NS.1). A typical task to demonstrate the first aspect of this standard is to ask students to use long division to demonstrate that 3/11 has a repeating decimal expansion, and to explain why. As students realize the connection between the remainder and the repeating portion (once a remainder appears a second time, the repeating decimal is confirmed), their understanding of rational numbers can now more fully integrate with their understanding of decimals and place value.

Second, as students begin to recognize that there are numbers that are not rational, *irrational* numbers, they can see that these new types of numbers can still be located on the number line, and that these new irrational numbers can also be approximated by rational numbers (8.NS.2). The foundation for this recognition is actually laid in students' 7th grade geometry explorations of the relationship between the circumference and diameter of a circle, and formalized into the formula for circumference (7.G.4), where the division of the circumference by the diameter for a given circle always results in a number a little larger than three, irrespective of the size of circle. Of course, in exploring this quotient of circumference by diameter, students get a look at a decimal approximation for their first irrational number, pi. This groundwork in quotients is critical, as students use rational approximations (an integer divided by an integer) to compare sizes of irrational numbers, locate them on number lines, and estimate values of irrational expressions, like pi^2.

The think-pair-share format can be used as a powerful means to build number sense for this new type of number, irrational numbers.

Vignette – Grade 8: Irrationals on a Number Line

Teacher: “Please copy this number line on the board onto your paper. I would like for you to spend a minute or so thinking quietly about where to place sqrt(4) and sqrt(9) on your number line. When your thinking is complete, talk with a partner about why you decided on your number line placements.”

Teacher walks between students monitoring work, providing integrated ELD support to the EL students. She encourages all of her students to use open sentence frames (“I placed sqrt(4) here because [blank],” or “Since sqrt(9) equals [blank], then I placed it [blank]”) to expand their use of mathematical language. She supports her EL students, observing and listening to them speak about where to place the values while paying close attention to their use of mathematical language and providing additional guiding questions, judicious coaching, and corrective feedback when necessary. In providing designated ELD support, she provides lists of terms related to the language of comparison, such as “the same as,” “close to,” “almost,” “greater than,” “less than,” “smaller,” and “larger” (see Chapter 2 for more on UDL and ELD strategies).

Teacher: “Oh, I see many of you recognized that these values are more simply expressed as our good friends 2 and 3! Next, I want to give you another minute for you to place sqrt(5) on the number line.”

(After 60 seconds or so)

Teacher: “Okay, please check with your partner. How do your locations compare?”

(Conversation in pairs)

Teacher: “Can someone describe how they placed sqrt(5) on their number line using the document camera?”

(Several pairs show their placement, and describe their thinking)

Teacher: “Lastly, please describe how to determine where 2*sqrt(5) should be placed. Think about this on your own for a minute or so, then check with your partner.”

(Students work individually, then in pairs on this extension of their previous work, finally sharing their work when finished.)

Irrational numbers other than pi, such as sqrt(2), can be introduced in 8th grade in a concrete geometric way, such as the following activity to be done on a pegboard with rubber bands:

1. Using a rubber band, create a square with area 4.
2. Now draw a square with area 9.
3. Can you draw a square with area 2?
4. How about drawing a square with area 5? Area 3?

How do students develop an understanding of ratios, rates, percents, and proportional relationships?

Grade 6

In sixth grade, students are introduced to the concepts of ratios and unit rates (6.RP.1 and 6.RP.2), and use tables of equivalent ratios, double number lines, tape diagrams and equations to solve real-world problems (6.RP.3). A critical feature to emphasize for students is the ability to think multiplicatively, rather than additively. For example, in the table below, missing values in a column can be found by multiplying (or dividing) a different column by a number; for the table below moving from the second column (with 10 cups of sugar) to the third column (with 1 cup of sugar) requires dividing by 10, so this same calculation is done in moving from 16 cups of flour to 1.6 cups of flour. Alternatively, in moving between rows, students can see that multiplying (or dividing) by a number is used in moving from the cups of sugar to cups of flour; in the case below multiplying the cups of sugar by 1.6 results in the appropriate cups of flour in the second row.

Cups of sugar	5	10	1		1.5	15	
Cups of flour	8	16		0.8	2.4		

Presenting scenarios where students must recognize whether two quantities are varying additively (same amount added/subtracted to both), or multiplicatively (both quantities are multiplied/divided by same value), can lay the foundation for proportional reasoning which follows in later grades. As students work with covarying quantities, such as miles to gallons, they see the value in expressing this relationship in terms of a single number that represents a unit rate, miles per (one single) gallon or miles per gallon.

Grade 7

In seventh grade, students' understanding of rates and ratios is drawn upon to recognize and represent proportional relationships between quantities (7.RP.2).

Pitfalls with Proportions

There is a danger, in working with proportions, for students to shift away from sense-making to "answer-getting," as Phil Daro points out (Daro, 2014).

One classic case of this is in the use of cross-multiplication to solve for unknowns in a proportion. For example, an elementary school wishes to determine the number of swings needed at recess on the playground. Not all students swing, so it is determined that, at a minimum, 2 swings are needed for every 25 students. And, at recess, 150 students will be using the playground. So how many swings, at a minimum, are needed to accommodate 150 students? A typical approach to this would be to set up a proportion as

$$\frac{2 \text{ swings}}{25 \text{ students}} = \frac{x \text{ swings}}{150 \text{ students}}$$

In solving for the number of swings, students are often led to cross-multiply, then divide to determine the unknown:

$$2 \cdot 150 = 25 \cdot x$$
$$300 = 25 \cdot x$$
$$12 = x$$

Although this leads to a correct answer, there are several pitfalls associated with cross-multiplying:

- The units become nonsensical when multiplied (the units label for 300 in 2nd equation is…swing-students?)
- Once introduced to cross-multiplying, students are strongly visual, so whenever they see two fractions, regardless of the operation or relationship between them, they are inclined to cross-multiply as a way to "eliminate" the fractions at the outset. Thus, cross-multiplying can contaminate, or even circumvent, sensible strategies to perform operations with fractions.
- As pointed out earlier, sense-making should be an emphasis, and the use of algorithms only when necessary. Cross-multiplying eschews approaches such as scaling up, or recognizing internal factors, which contribute to greater number sense.

There are a host of representations for students to be introduced to, and to later draw from, as they reason through proportional situations: graphs, equations, verbal descriptions, tables, charts, and double number lines. Although there are many approaches to solving proportions, approaches an emphasis should always be made to emphasize sense-making over “answer-getting” (see box).

Initially, students test for proportionality by examining equivalent ratios in a table, or by graphing the relationship and looking for a line (7.RP.2.a). They may also attempt to identify a constant of proportionality, (7.RP.2.b), or represent the equation as a relationship (7.RP.2.c). Although percents are introduced in sixth grade, percents are often used in the context of proportional reasoning problems in seventh grade (7.RP.3). Because of the rich variety in approaches to solving proportional problems, teachers should make good use of class conversations about open-approach problems. The following vignette illustrates an example of an open-approach problem involving ratios.

Vignette – Grade 7: Ratios and Orange Juice

Ms. Z wants her seventh-grade math class to develop more understanding on the use of multiple representations in solving word problems. The class has used a variety of approaches: concrete (using colored chips and tape), representational (drawing chips and tape diagrams, tables), and abstract (proportional thinking). By having the class discuss the use of multiple means of representation for the same problem, she is providing the options for expression and communication, language and symbols, and sustaining effort and persistence in the guidelines for UDL (see Chapter 2 for more on UDL and ELD strategies). . In regards to content standards, she wants the focus to be on recognizing and representing the relationships between quantities (7.RP.2). The specific Math Practices she wants students to engage in are SMP.1 (Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them) and SMP.4 (Model with mathematics). She has decided to use the 5 Practices approach (Smith, Stein, 2011) to facilitate classroom discussion centered around the following task from Seventh-Grade College Preparatory Materials.

Orange Juice Problem

The kitchen workers at a school are experimenting with different orange juice blends using juice concentrate and water.

Which mix gives juice that is the most "orangey?" Explain, being sure to show work clearly.

Mix A	Mix B
2 cups concentrate	1 cup concentrate
3 cups cold water	4 cups cold water

Mix C	Mix D
4 cups concentrate	3 cups concentrate
6 cups cold water	5 cups cold water

Anticipation:

Ms. Z anticipates that student pairs will approach the problem in the following ways:

a. Physically using two colors of chips, or drawing chips on paper, to indicate the cups of concentrate versus cold water for each mix. This approach involves doubling and tripling to achieve comparisons.
b. Physically using colored tape, or drawing tape diagrams, to indicate the ratio between cups of concentrate to cups of cold water. This approach involves doubling and tripling as well.
c. Converting each ratio of concentrate to water to a decimal, then comparing decimal values.
d. Using a common denominator approach to compare the ratios of concentrate to water for each mix.
e. Converting the ratios to percents and comparing percents.

Monitoring:

In walking around, Ms. Z makes note of which approach each student pair is using. While she has accurately anticipated that several students would utilize tape diagrams, chips, fractions, decimals and percents, she notices that some students are taking two additional approaches:

f. Using a double number line to conduct pairwise comparisons
g. Using a ratio table to "build up" to comparable ratios

In addition, she notices that some students are utilizing the above seven (items a–g) approaches, but are using the total mixture (water and concentrate) in their calculations. Although Ms. Z intended on having students present their work using the document camera, she realizes that connecting each of the student's approaches will be difficult without the work still being viewable after the presentation is over. She quickly places a large piece of poster paper with instructions for each pair to transcribe their solution onto the poster paper.

Selecting and Sequencing:

Ms. Z selects one student pair with each type of solution to present their work on the document camera. In doing this, she has checked with, and received permission from two of the pairs to demonstrate their approach even though it resulted in some erroneous work. She decides to focus on the approaches which used concentrate to water comparisons rather than concentrate to total mixture comparisons to avoid confusion. She decides that seeing the problem modeled with concrete materials, and drawings of materials, is valuable for the class to see first so that the fractions, decimals, and percents to follow have more meaning. Therefore, she has the two groups which used concrete materials (tape or diagrams) share their approach first. The ratio table approach is next, followed by the fraction approach since the common denominators appear in the ratio table. Next is the double number line approach since it involves doubling, tripling, halving in a way similar to the ratio table. Last are the decimal and percent approaches, which were the most popular, but lacked effective explanations. By the time the entire class got to these last two approaches, they could better ascribe meaning to each of the numbers in the decimals and percents.

Connecting:

As each student presents their work, she asks the class to compare the approach to prior approaches, and note the similarities and differences. While the majority of students converted to decimals, the approaches that students commented on the most were the concrete and diagram approaches, ratio table, percents, and the double number line. While students arrived at a number of different conclusions in looking across the approaches, one student commented that "you can compare the same water or concentrate" When asked to explain, the student's response clarified that, by manipulating a ratio to arrive at the same cups of water, or the same cups of concentrate, then the ratios could easily be compared. Ms. Z was quick to capitalize on this recognition with her next question: “In comparing fractions, can I compare using common numerators instead of common denominators?” The ensuing conversation was surprising to students that had considered common denominators as the only means to compare fractions.

Grade 8

Understanding of proportional relationships plays a fundamental role in helping students make sense of linear equations graphically. In plotting points and drawing a line, students recognize that each graph of a proportional relationship between two quantities is actually a line through the origin, and that the unit rate, in units of the vertically oriented quantity (y) per one unit of the horizontal quantity (x), is the slope of the graph (8.EE.5). By situating the graphical features of a line, such as the slope, in prior understanding of proportions, students are able to internalize an understanding of linear equations which is interwoven with their understanding of contexts for linear equations, as opposed to two disconnected schemas. The following task can provide a means to connect ratio tables, unit rates, and linear relationships.

Task – Unit Rates, Line and Slope

Two cups of yellow paint are mixed with three cups of blue paint to make Gremlin Green paint.

A. How much yellow and blue paint is needed to make 35 cups of the Gremlin Green paint?
B. Set up a ratio table which shows all three pairs of unit rates.
C. Write 2-unit rate statements based on your work in part a.
D. Choose two points from your ratio table and graph the line through these points. How does the slope of your line relate to the unit rates in your table from part B.?

How do students see generalized numbers as leading to algebra?

Grade 6

To many, algebra is seen as a type of generalized arithmetic, with letters as stand-ins for general numbers in expressions (Usiskin, 1998). In sixth grade, students are introduced to the idea that letters can stand for numbers (i.e. using a letter for a non-specific, general number), and write, read and evaluate expressions involving letters, operations, and numbers (6.EE.1). For sixth-grade students, variables are intrinsically related to numbers, and the conceptions they have formed about how numbers operate form the basis of their understanding of how variables operate.

Ideas of equivalence and operations, laid before in earlier grades, now take on new meaning as students apply properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions (6.EE.3), and identify when two expressions are equivalent (6.EE.4). And, the relationship between numerical understanding and algebraic understanding is also reciprocal; for example, the recognition that $t + t + t$ is equivalent to $3t$, can provide additional insight for students to see multiplication as repeated addition. The number sense children have developed to this point also enables them to go beyond building and comparing expressions, to reasoning about and solving one-variable equations of various types (6.EE.7).

Grade 7

Students' understanding of rational numbers, as whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percents, is put to full use as they solve real-life and mathematical problems in seventh grade (7.EE.3). Specifically, students construct (from word problems) and solve equations of the form $px + q = r$ and $p(x+q) = r$, where p, q, and r are rational numbers in 7th grade (7.EE.4). Many of the properties that students use in solving these types of equations are reliant upon a well-developed number sense. In other words, in order to solve equations involving unknowns that are rational numbers, students must rely upon their understanding of rational numbers themselves, at times. In the equation above, for example, students can be sure that p times x is another rational number because they have built an intuition about the closure property of multiplication by their prior work in multiplying specific rational numbers together and seeing the answers that are arrived at. As students grow increasingly reliant upon properties, first explored with numbers in earlier grades, and now seen to be consistent when letters replace numbers, such as multiplying by one or adding zero, to facilitate the many correct ways equations can be used to model a situation (7.EE.4.a), their number sense develops into a sense for algebra. Because of this progression, the beginnings of algebra understanding for students should be rooted in sense-making about how numbers work, just in a more general setting. It is worth pointing out here that although it is tempting to provide lists of steps (e.g. simplify both sides of the equation, do the same operation to both sides, isolate the variable using operations, etc.), lists of steps should only be provided when generated by students themselves in describing their steps on particular problems, lest students trade active reasoning from intrinsic properties to a reliance upon rote procedural skills (Reys and Reys, 1998).

Grade 8

In grade 8, the notation for numbers expands greatly, with the introduction of integer exponents and radicals to represent solutions of equations (8.EE.2). For students with a firm grasp of numbers, and variables, the introduction of this notation can be taken in stride. For example, if students are asked to compare 2 + 2 + 2 to x + x + x and to sqrt(2) + sqrt(2) + sqrt(2), the connection between these, as three twos, three xs, and three square roots of 2, becomes more apparent to students, and enables them to draw upon number sense in forming their algebra sense. Number sense also forms a critical role in 8th grade, as students can check the accuracy of their answers with estimation, and use place value understanding to express large and small numbers in scientific notation (8.EE.4).

Math Talks, Grades 6–8 and beyond

Math talks, which include number talks, number strings and number strategies, are short discussions in which students solve a math problem mentally, share their strategies aloud, and as a class determine a correct solution. Math talks designed to highlight a particular type of problem or useful strategy serve to advance the development of efficient, generalizable strategies for the class. These class discussions provide an interesting challenge, a safe situation in which to explore, compare, and develop strategies. Math talks in grades 6–8 can strengthen, support, and extend calculation strategies involving expressions, decimal, percent and fraction concepts, as well as estimation.

The notion of using language to convey mathematical understanding aligns with the key components of the CA ELD Standards. The focus of a math talk is on comparing and examining various methods so that students can refine their own approaches, possibly noting and analyzing any error they may have made. In the course of a math talk, students often adopt methods another student has presented that make sense to them.

The ELD Standards promote Interacting in Meaningful Ways (26–7), where instruction is collaborative, interpretive, and productive. To facilitate meaningful discourse, the teacher can use a *Collect and Display* routine (SCALE, 2017). As students discuss their ideas with their partners, the teacher will listen for and record, in writing, the language students use, and may sketch diagrams or pictures to capture students' own language and ideas. These notes will be displayed during an ensuing class conversation, when students collaborate to make and strengthen their shared understanding. Students will be able to refer to, build on, or make connections with this display during future discussion or writing.

Some examples of problem types for Math Talks at the 6–8 grade level might include:

- Order of operation calculations for which students can apply properties to help simplify complicated numerical expressions. For example, $3(7 - 2)^2 + 8 \div 4 - 6 \cdot 5$.
- Operations involving irrational numbers: 2/3 of pi is approximately how much? Four times sqrt(8) is closest to which integer?
- Percent and decimal problems: Compute 45% of 80; or calculate the percent increase from 80 to 100; or 0.2% of 1000 is how much?

There are some excellent free, online resources that offer math talk ideas.

- San Francisco Unified School District has compiled a comprehensive page of resources for using Math Talks at http://www.sfusdmath.org/math-talks-resources.html
- The Fresh Ideas segment of Gfletchy.com (https://gfletchy.com), contains a variety of activities and methods for math talks, including geometric math talks. The site also provides downloadable materials and suggestions for building fluency.
- Inside Mathematics (https://www.insidemathematics.org/) includes video examples of math talks from classrooms, grades 1 through 7.
- Activities, videos, and research findings for math talks can be found at Youcubed https://www.youcubed.org/).
- Steve Wyborney's website, https://stevewyborney.com/2017/02/splat/, offers a novel approach to math talks. On Splat! slides, arrangements of dots are

displayed for a few seconds, and students share their methods of counting, mentally organizing, and grouping to determine the number of dots.

Print resources rich in math talk ideas for the upper elementary and middle grades includes *Number Talks: Fractions, Decimals, Percentages*, by Sherry Parrish and *Making Number Talks Matter*, by Cathy Humphries and Ruth Parker.

Games

Games are a powerful means of engaging students in thinking about mathematics. Using games and interactives to replace standard practice exercises contributes to students' understanding as well as their affect toward mathematics. A plethora of rich activities related to number sense topics are offered at Nrich Maths' website, https://nrich.maths.org/9413. For example, the Dozens game challenges students to find the largest possible three-digit number which uses two given digits, and one of the player's choosing, and is a multiple of 2, 3, 4, or 6. As students form strategies, they develop a sense for the connections between divisibility and place value in a fun way. The Youcubed site offers an abundance of low floor – high ceiling tasks, games, and activities designed to engage students in thinking about important mathematics in visual, contextual ways. In playing What's the Secret Code? (https://www.youcubed.org/tasks/whats-secret-code/), students use clues involving place value, decimals, and percents to find a code number.

High School, Grades 9–12

For students, their number sense, developed in grades K–8, culminates in the learning of three important areas in the high school grades. First, students see the parallels between numbers (and how they interact) and functions, especially polynomials and rational functions. Second, students extend their understanding of prior number systems, including wholes, integers and rationals, to learning about the real and complex number systems, which form the basis for algebra and set the stage for calculus. Third, students will draw upon their number sense, developed in earlier grades, in order to cultivate the necessary quantitative reasoning needed to understand and model problems, especially in the area of financial literacy. By interweaving their increased understanding of decimals, fractions, and percents with functions, modeling, and prediction, they are equipped to understand financial concepts, tools, and products. Quantitative reasoning is an area which extends well beyond mathematics; quantitative reasoning (QR), is defined as the habit of mind to consider both the power and limitations of quantitative evidence in the evaluation, construction, and communication of arguments in public, professional, and personal life (Grawe, 2011).

- Seeing parallels between numbers and functions in grades 9–12
- Developing an understanding of real and complex number systems
- Develop financial literacy

How do students see the parallels between numbers and functions in grades 9–12?

A deep realization for students to explore in higher math courses is that objects of one type have relationships with each other that parallel the relationships that objects of a different type possess. One of the earliest introductions to this concept of parallelism occurs for students as they compare the behavior of numbers to the behavior of polynomials. In drawing upon their knowledge of integers, specifically as a system of objects with properties, students can see polynomials as an analogous system in terms of the major operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (A-APR.1).

Moreover, students' number sense about divisibility concepts, that were developed in earlier grades while working with integers and rational numbers can now be extended to explore similar divisibility concepts in the new territories of polynomials and rational functions. Familiar terms such as factors, primes and fractions, take on new meaning for students as they learn to rewrite algebraic expressions by factoring (A-SSE.2), and in solving quadratic equations (A-SSE.3.a). The following snapshot provides an example of such parallelism in an activity.

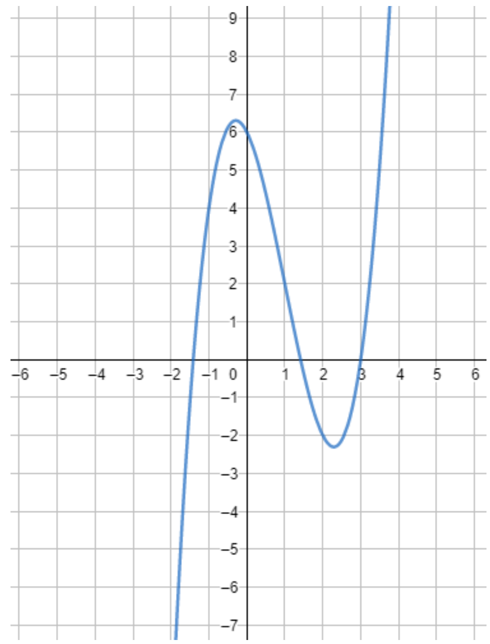
Vignette – High School Math I/Algebra I: Polynomials are Like Numbers

Ms. G is looking ahead at the curriculum and recognizes that factoring polynomials is a topic that her Math II students have struggled with in the past, both in terms of motivation and in understanding how factoring connects to other topics. With other mathematical concepts, she has had success using the UDL guidelines (http://udlguidelines.cast.org/). For this activity, she will focus on guidelines seven (Recruiting Interest checkpoints 7.1

and 7.2) and eight (Sustaining Effort and Persistence checkpoints 8.3 and 8.4) to provide options for recruiting interest and strategies for sustaining effort (see Chapter 2 for more information on UDL). She aligns this approach with her personal inspiration drawn from SMP 7 (Look for and Make Use of Structure) and SMP 6 (Attend to Precision), as she decides to implement an activity which relies upon their experience with factoring and division of whole numbers to set the stage for working with polynomials.

She begins by asking her students to work in pairs to answer the following: “Without checking on a calculator, is 186 divisible by three?” Before they begin, she asks for a reminder of what “divisible” means. One student observes that “you can divide into it”. Another student questions this, as “you can divide any number by another number, it just keeps going.” The class eventually arrives at a reasonable definition of divisible as “b is divisible by c if you can divide b by c without any leftover remainder.” Although this definition could be clarified further, Ms. G decides this will suffice for now. She checks around the room as students discuss the divisibility of 186 by three. Most pairs are busy doing long division calculations. Two pairs have employed the “trick” of adding the digits 1, 8, and 6 together, to get 15 and then declaring that since 15 is divisible by three then 186 is too. Ms. G states that they can spend some time thinking about why this divisibility rule works, and can collect other rules like this tomorrow. After a minute or so, everyone agrees that 186 is divisible by three. Ms. G asks, “So how does knowing that 3 is a factor of 186 help you with finding other factors?” One student, who rarely speaks up, remarks that they have another factor now: “186 divided by three is 62, so 62 times 3 is 186.” Ms. G then probes further: “And does 62 have factors?” The students recognize that it is even, and so divisible by two, so 31 is the last factor. Ms. G comes back to the question of why it is useful to know a factor, and a student exclaims “because it unlocks all the other factors—it’s a key!” Ms. G applauds the class for this realization, and they take note of this on the board and in their notebooks. As they are writing, Ms. G helps them summarize by noting that three helped revealed the structure of 186 by division, and that factors compose the structure of larger numbers when multiplied together.

Ms. G asks the class to consider another question “How is a polynomial like a number?” One student offers “It has factors.” Ms. G then begins a bulleted running list of comparisons between polynomials and numbers on the board. Other responses include “polynomials are big, but not all numbers are”, and “numbers don’t have variables.” Ms. G encourages them to keep thinking about this question as she asks the next: “Consider the polynomial $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 2x + 6$. What can we say about this polynomial?” Answers from students include “it’s got four pieces,” “3 times 2 is 6,” and “it’s a parabola.”



Ms. G: “These are excellent observations. I love it that, in the last one, we are thinking about the graph of the polynomial. That’s something really cool about polynomials that numbers don’t really have—wild graphs! Here is a graph of the polynomial—what do you notice?” Students discuss in their pairs that the shape is “not really a parabola,” “crosses x-axis in three places,” “is very “swoopy,” “goes to infinity,” and “goes up to 6 and down to –2.”

Ms. G asks them where they think it crosses the x-axis. “At 3, for sure. Then at 1.5 and -1.5 too.” Other students, who have graphed it on their devices are not as sure: “It looks like it doesn’t cross right at 1.5. It’s close, but not quite.” Ms. G: “You mean, not precisely? How do we know 1.5 is not a root?” Students calculate that the function value for x = 3 is 0 (indicating a root at 3), but not for x = 1.5 or x = -1.5. Ms. G: “So if 1.5 is not where it crosses, then where does it cross, exactly? Can factoring help us here?”

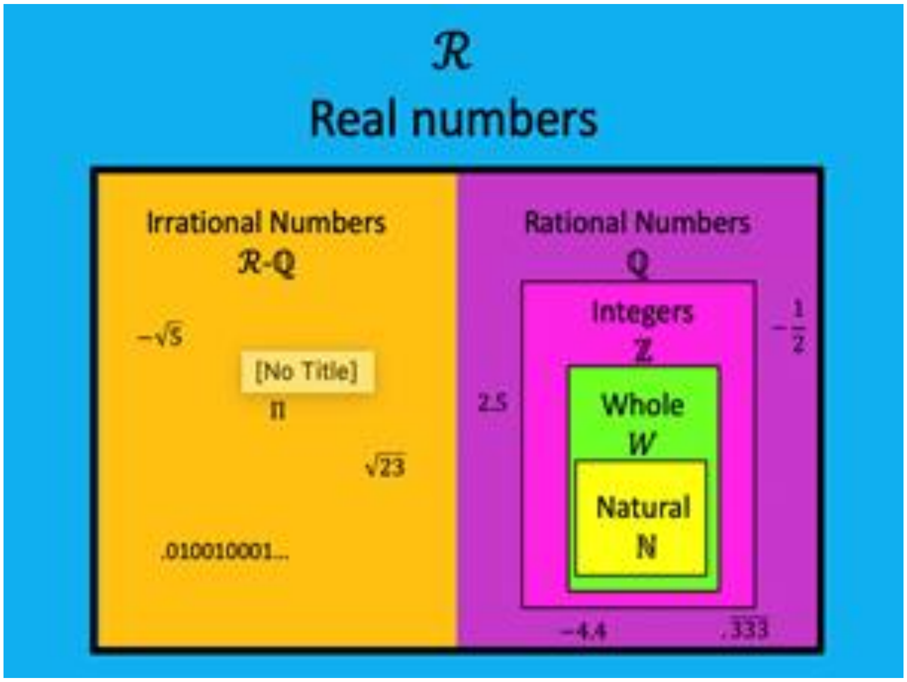
Ms. G pauses for an aside here to have the students graph g(x) = (x-1)(x+2). As they quickly see the link between root locations on the x-axis and factors of g(x), they then are able to recognize that setting each factor equal to zero and solving gives a root. They then turn back to the cubic polynomial. Ms. G: “So if we know the factors, it’s easy to find the roots. We see that x = 3 is a root, so one factor (x – 3). How can we unlock the other factors? What process did we do to unlock the other factors of 186?” A couple of student hands are up: “Long division! Oh, no!” Ms. G: “Not oh no, oh yes! We like long division because it's how we unlock this polynomial! Let's find those other factors!" Through long division of $x^3 - 3x^2 - 2x + 6$ by x-3, the quotient is $x^2 - 2$. Ms. G: "So what are those roots?" One pair answers that they don't know what to do with $x^2 - 2$. Another pair offers that "you can't factor it, but you can just set it to zero and get an answer of $\sqrt{2}$." In looking at the graph, the class realizes that $-\sqrt{2}$ is the other exact root. Ms. G reminds them to take note of how much factoring helped them to determine the structure of both numbers and polynomial functions in today's class.

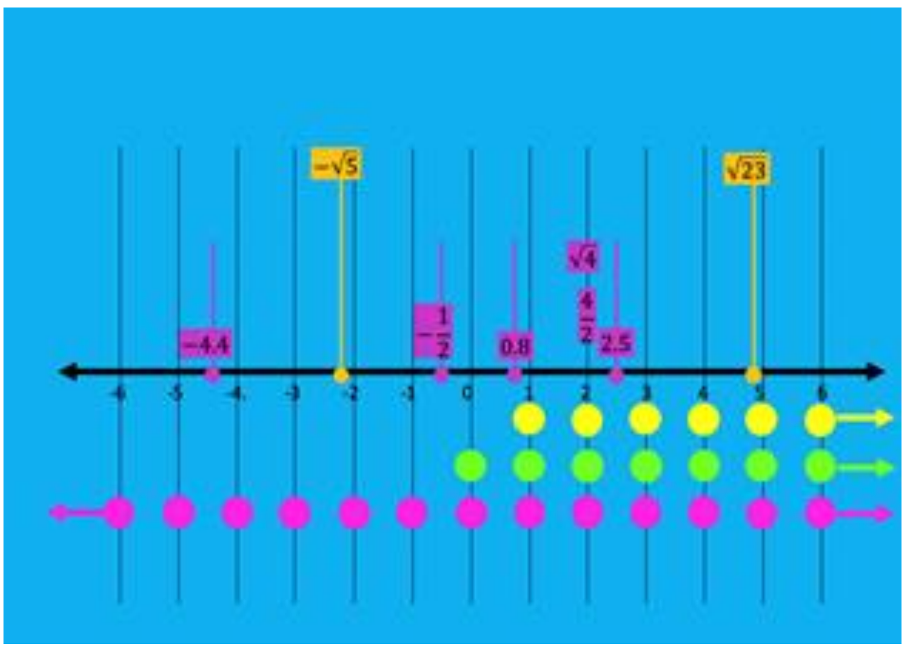
How do students develop an understanding of the real and complex number systems in grades 9–12?

In high school, algebraic properties and number concepts used in prior grades, such as the distributive property or inverses, are applied in a broader context to explore number systems, especially real and complex numbers. Students' number sense about rational numbers is critical to understanding the connections between rational number exponents and radical notation (N-RN.1), as well as in rewriting expressions involving radicals and exponents(N-RN.2). For example, students' ability to perform operations with fractions rational numbers is needed in shifting forms between equivalent expressions such as $\left(\sqrt{5}\right)^{1/3} = 5^{1/6}$ or $2^{2/3} \cdot 4^{1/2} = 2^{5/3} = (2^5)^{1/3} = (32)^{1/3}$. Not only does number sense involving rational numbers inform understanding of exponents and radicals, it also forms the basis for a deep understanding of more advanced topics, such as logarithms and exponential functions. Despite the need, at times, to perform calculations to expand or simplify expressions, students also need to gain proficiency in their reasoning and communication abilities with peer-based conversations on more subtle properties, such as explaining why the sum or product of two rational numbers is rational, or discovering that the sum of a rational number and an irrational number is irrational (N-RN.3). It is difficult to overstate the need for students to be comfortable with fractions involving irrationals, such as $\sqrt{2}$ and π, as expressions involving these types of numbers are intrinsic to the mathematics present in STEM fields.

The arithmetic skills students have used prior form the basis of their ability to understand operations involving complex numbers. As solving equations increasingly becomes an emphasis in higher math courses, the number systems can begin to be seen as the sets where solutions live. For example, the solutions to linear equations exist entirely in the rational number system. Once students have fully explored this relationship between sets of solutions and sets of numbers, they have the means to then understand that solving the simple quadratic equation $x^2 + 1 = 0$ requires a new type of number, i, where $i^2 = -1$. In this manner, students can see that the complex number system, consisting of all numbers of the form a +bi (N-CN.1), provides solutions to polynomial equations, in a similar way to the real system. This connection between solutions and sets of numbers is extended as students solve quadratic equations with real coefficients (N-CN.3), and discover the three cases that result: a repeated real, two distinct real, or a complex (conjugate) pair of solutions. Students' conception of the complex number system, and its itinerant properties, grows further with adding, subtracting, and multiplying complex numbers together (N-CN.2), just as they have manipulated prior types of numbers, such as rational numbers, with these same operations.

It is well known that number sense has a strong connection to visual representation. Teachers can facilitate understanding of concepts, especially number systems, by promoting visual representations as a means for understanding. An example, which links a Venn diagram model to the number line model, is provided below (Williams, 2019).





How does number sense contribute to students' development of financial literacy, especially in grades 9–12?

Financial literacy is defined as the knowledge, tools, and skills that are essential for effective management of personal fiscal resources and financial well-being. Gaining mathematical knowledge is the first step toward developing financial literacy, which in turn provides early opportunities for meaningful mathematical modeling. The global economic downturn that occurred in the late 2000s highlighted the need for increased financial education for school-age students as well as adults. A 2018 survey conducted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) showed that only 34 percent of the Americans surveyed had demonstrated basic financial literacy on a short quiz. And, alarmingly, the trend over time indicates that financial literacy among Americans is diminishing. And financial education makes a difference, as receiving more than 10 hours of financial education can make a significant difference in an individual’s ability to spend less than they earn (FINRA, 2019).

There are several places in the CA Common Core State Standards which can connect to financial literacy and number sense. These include standards under the cluster Reason Quantitatively and Use Units to Solve Problems (N-Q.1, N-Q.2, N-Q.3), as well as the standards involving creating and reasoning with equations and inequalities (A-CED and A-REI). By setting contexts in which number sense plays a role in financial decision-making at the high school level, learning can be more authentic. For example, in roughly determining the length of time that a student can realistically save for a large purchase at their current wage rate, a student is using number sense in constructing a simple estimate. In addition, students can use number sense to efficiently compare the ongoing costs associated with a service to a one-time purchase. For example, a student can calculate the difference in purchasing an ongoing gym membership at $40/month versus the one-time purchase cost of workout equipment to be used at home, $300. The student can include additional factors to help in making their decision, such as the cost per use, and amount of time.

Another example which not only relies on number sense, but also involves building functions (F-BF.1) is the following:

> Kai arrived at college and was given two credit cards. He didn’t really know much about managing his money, but he did understand how to use the cards—so he bought a few things for his dorm room, including a laptop for $800 and a microwave for $200. Each of the items was purchased with a different credit card, and each card had a different interest rate. The laptop was purchased with a card that had an 15% annual interest rate; the microwave was purchased with a card that had a 25% annual interest rate. At Kai’s job, he earns $1500 per month and spends $1200 per month on school-related and living expenses.

1. What questions do you have about each credit card that would help you advise Kai on how to pay off each of his debts? (For example, students might ask about the minimum payments required for each card, late charges, and so forth.)
2. If Kai takes the amount of money he has left after paying his other expenses and splits it between the two cards, how long would it take him to pay off each account?
3. What other options does Kai have for paying off the debts?
4. Which option would result in Kai paying the least amount of interest?
    a. Write one or more equations to model the situation and support your answer.
    b. What is the total amount of interest Kai will end up paying for each credit card?

There are two sets of national standards that teachers may use to influence their instruction. The Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy created and maintains the 2015 National Standards in K–12 Personal Finance Education, available at https://www.jumpstart.org/what-we-do/support-financial-education/standards/ (accessed Jan. 28, 2020). These standards describe financial knowledge and skills that students should be able to exhibit. The Jump$tart standards are organized under six major categories of personal finance:

- Spending and Saving: Apply strategies to monitor income and expenses, plan for spending and save for future goals.
- Credit and Debt: Develop strategies to control and manage credit and debt.
- Employment and Income: Use a career plan to develop personal income potential.
- Investing: Implement a diversified investment strategy that is compatible with personal financial goals.
- Risk Management and Insurance: Apply appropriate and cost-effective risk management strategies.
- Financial Decision Making: Apply reliable information and systematic decision making to personal financial decisions.

The second set of national standards available to teachers is the National Standards for Financial Literacy published by the Council for Economic Education (CEE). The CEE standards are available at https://www.councilforeconed.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/national-standards-for-financial-literacy.pdf (accessed Jan. 28, 2020) and, like the Jump$tart standards, are organized under six major categories of personal finance:

- Earning Income
- Buying Goods and Services
- Saving
- Using Credit
- Financial Investing
- Protecting and Insuring

Although California has not adopted its own standards for financial literacy, the California Council on Economic Education (CEE) has a number of resources for K–12 grades teachers available at https://ccee.org/tr/. In addition, the CA Social Studies and History Framework includes language and description of financial literacy as it pertains to global citizenship as well as personal finances (e.g., pp. 315–316 and pp. 559–560, https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/hssframework.asp).

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