



Basic Arithmetic

BOX NOTICE

Name of the activity	Basic arithmetic
Activity duration	1h
Material needed	Basic arithmetic box, A4 sheets, a set of 50 wooden cubes
Number of pupils involved (per box)	Two or three pupils per box

Step 1: Preparation

As an introduction to the topic, you may ask your pupils what they know about addition and subtraction: do they have any examples of applications in their everyday life? They can count their toys (such as marbles), which they win or lose, maybe they have seen their parents do their groceries and come out of the shop with a receipt, etc.

Step 2: Storytelling

Use the storytelling resource to tell the story to your class! Cut the figures according to the Creation of the Elements file to have the characters come in and out of the train. You may build a small paper train beforehand to add the characters if you want.

Remember to take a short pause whenever a character goes in or out during the story: how many characters are left in the train?

You may also use the first sequence idea to assign a seat to each of the characters: to do this, you may use dice or create your own by drawing on your wooden cubes. Add or subtract one of the results to the other ones to give a seat to each passenger!



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Step 3: Manipulation

Use the wooden cubes to manipulate even greater numbers. You may start by asking your pupils to add small numbers (with a sum below 10) and progressively have them add two numbers greater than 10. You may then do the same with subtractions.

Step 4: Sequence 2 temperature exercise

The manipulation in sequence 2 asks your pupils to write a story about the temperature during the day. To do this, ask your pupils to imagine what the temperatures are at night, in the morning, in the middle of the day, and in the afternoon.

To help pupils in difficulty, use the cubes again to create a small tower. They can count how many cubes they added or removed and look at the final number of cubes they have.



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