

## PLACE VALUE PIRATES

**Purpose:** Students will identify proper place values within a large number called out by the teacher.

**Suggested Grade Level:** 3-4

**Math SOL:** Number and Number Sense: 3.1, 4.1

### **Equipment/Materials Needed:**

1. 5 hula hoops
2. 5 different color bean bags
3. Large strips of paper (2 feet long)
4. 5 cones

### **Advanced Preparation:**

1. Write approximately 20 numbers with high place values including decimals, if needed, onto strips of paper
2. Place 5 hula hoops side by side on the floor.
3. Place 4 number strips behind each hoop.
4. Place a cone with a bean bag in front of each hoop approximately 5 feet away

### **Directions:**

1. Place students behind each cone in lines of about 5.
2. Tell the first person in each line go to the hula hoop that is in front of their line. That student is the place value pirate.
3. Tell that student to pick up one of the number strips and face their line, standing behind the hula hoop.
4. Explain that the place value pirate should hold the strip for all to see. There should be 5 students holding a different number behind each hoop.
5. Tell the new first person in line to pick up their bean bag.
6. Explain to them that the pirates have their treasure and they are trying to capture the pirates.
7. Tell the students that you will call out a place value on one of the strips. For example, a 7 in the tenths place.
8. Tell students with bean bags to attempt to toss their bean bag in the hula hoop that has the number strip with a 7 in the tenths place.
9. The first two students to get their bean bag in the correct hoop “captures a pirate” and get a point for their team. Only the first 2 teams get points, and the bean bag must make it into the hoop. If a student tosses at the correct hoop but does not make it in the hoop they do not get a point.
10. The students who just tossed now become the pirates and hold a new number strip and the first set of pirates go to the end of their line

### **Teaching Suggestions:**

1. Have many of the same numbers in the strips so the students really have to focus on the number being in the correct place.
2. Have 2 cones for each line so that the person tossing has a cone and the rest of their line is behind the second cone.
3. Remind students to not shout out answers but to view each number to see where they would toss if it were their turn.

4. Have students waiting do physical movement such as heel raises, cross crawls, shoulder shrugs, marching in place, etc....
5. If you would like, give points for tossing to the correct hoop but not making it, that is fine.
6. There might be 2 numbers with the same number in a specific place value called. Still look for the first 2 to make it.

**Modifications/Variations:**

1. Use something other than a hula hoop for the target (box, trash can, taped off area of the floor)
2. Use this with any other topic that fits. The activity is basically choosing A,B,C, D or E. Each hoop represents a choice.

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