

WHAT'S THE MISSING ADDEND

Purpose: Students will solve problems with a missing number by retrieving the appropriate answer.

Suggested Grade Level: 2nd and 3rd

Math SOL: Computation and Estimation 2.9, 3.5

Equipment/Materials Needed:

1. Index card- 10 per groups
2. Cones – 2 per group (anything to mark a starting and ending spots for groups)

Advanced Preparation:

1. Write numbers 1-10 on 5 sets of index cards (this will give you 5 groups – use more or less depending on your need)
2. Place cones at one side of the area to designate starting locations for each group and cones at the opposing side to designate their retrieval spot.
3. Place index cards at the cones across from the starting cones.
4. This set up should resemble a relay activity.

Directions:

1. Split students into groups and line each group up behind a starting cone.
2. Tell students that you will be showing the entire class a math problem with a missing addend.
3. Instruct students to view the math problem and give them about 5 seconds to think it through. As a teacher, you may want all students in the group to discuss what the answer is, or you may make it so that only the first person in line retrieves the answer without discussion.
4. Tell students that when you say “go”, the first person in line is to run to the set of index cards across from them and retrieve what they think the missing number is.
5. Explain to students that the 1st person is the only person to go down and retrieve the index card. Remaining students may do a physical activity in place while their teammate is gone.
6. Instruct the student who retrieved the card to hold the card until all groups have their member return to their team.
7. When all students have returned have all teams show their answer.
8. Give the groups that get the answer correct a specific exercise to do for the correct answer and the groups that get the answer incorrect a different exercise.
9. Tell the person who retrieved the card to give it to the next person in line and then they are to go to the end of their line.
10. Tell the next person in line to hold on to that card until they see the next math problem.
11. Show the next math problem.
12. Repeat the process, by having the new first person in line with the index card run down and place the previous answer down and retrieve the new correct answer.
13. Continue until you are satisfied with the activity.

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Teaching Suggestions:

1. Remind students to whisper if you let them discuss the answer so as to not give the answer away to other teams.
2. Tell students that there may be a chance that their team has the index card with the correct answer on it from the previous problem, but that they are to run down and “pretend” to put it down and get a new one so that they don’t give away the answer to the other teams.
3. If you use a variety of colored index cards, you can assign teams a color and then you do not necessarily need two cones per group.

Modifications/Variations:

1. Try this with multiplication problems or money amounts.

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