July 26, 2025

Math Skills BrushUp with Kids Academy: Transitioning from Grade 1 to Grade 2

www.kidsacademy.mobi

The transition from 1st to 2nd grade is another big step in a child's education journey. During this time period children begin moving past simple number recognition and addition to more complex problem solving, place value, and deeper reasoning. Practicing key math skills over the summer can help students feel confident and ready to engage when school starts. Making the school easier on everyone.

Below are the most essential math skills that are aimed at supporting the transition into 2nd grade alongside engaging resources from Kids Academy and hands-on practice ideas you can use at home to keep learning active, fun, and stress free.

REVIEWING 1ST GRADE MATH SKILLS

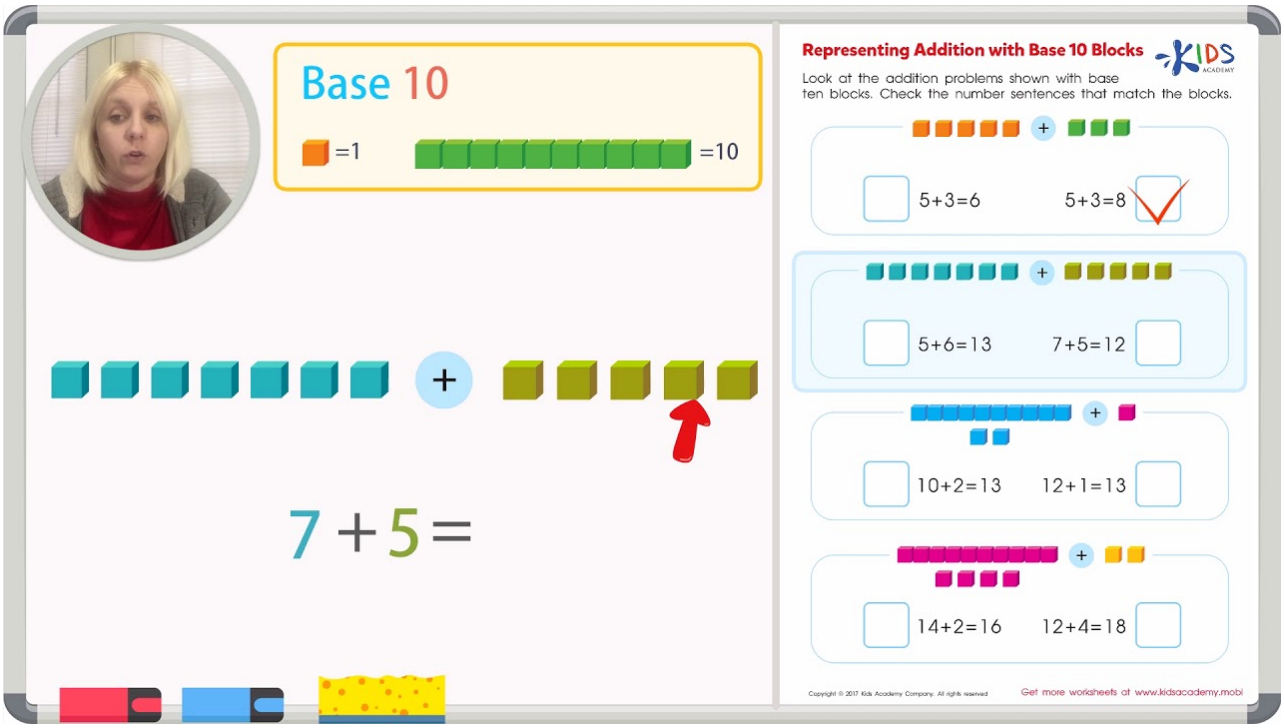
1. Adding and Subtracting Within 100

> What it is: Solving problems with two digit numbers using strategies like counting on, number lines, and place value.

Why it matters: I have seen students who mastered two-digit addition and subtraction in 1st grade had an easier time transitioning into 3 digit regrouping in 2nd grade. Their number sense gave them a head start when others were still counting on their fingers. In 2nd grade, students begin working with 3 digit numbers and are expected to regroup confidently. If they haven't built fluency with adding or subtracting within 100, they'll struggle with accuracy and speed when problems become more complex.If students are still counting fingers or struggling to recognize number relationships, they'll have a hard time keeping up.

Try These:

- Video: Addition with Base Ten Blocks



Watch on YouTube

- Lesson: Adding with Base Ten Blocks

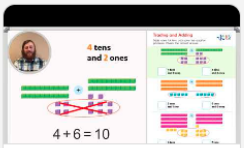
Estimated classroom time: 17 min | Chapter: Addition and Subtraction 20-100 | Unit: Foundations in Operations Within 100

Click on any activity below to start learning.

1st 3:00 min ▶ 2nd 4:00 min ▶ 3rd 3:00 min ▶ 4th 3:00 min ▶ 5th 4:00 min

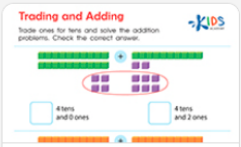
Trading Ones for Tens Worksheet

Worksheet



Addition with Regrouping

Video

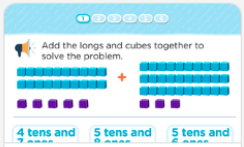


Trading and Adding Worksheet

Worksheet

Practice Addition: Part 1 Worksheet

Worksheet



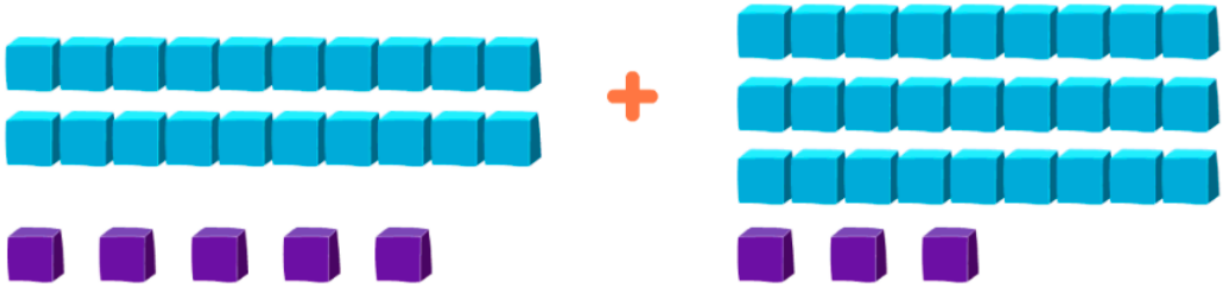
Adding with Base 10 With and Without Regrouping

Quiz

• Quizzes: Addition and Subtraction Within 100 with Base Ten Blocks

1 2 3 4 5 6

Add the longs and cubes together to solve the problem.

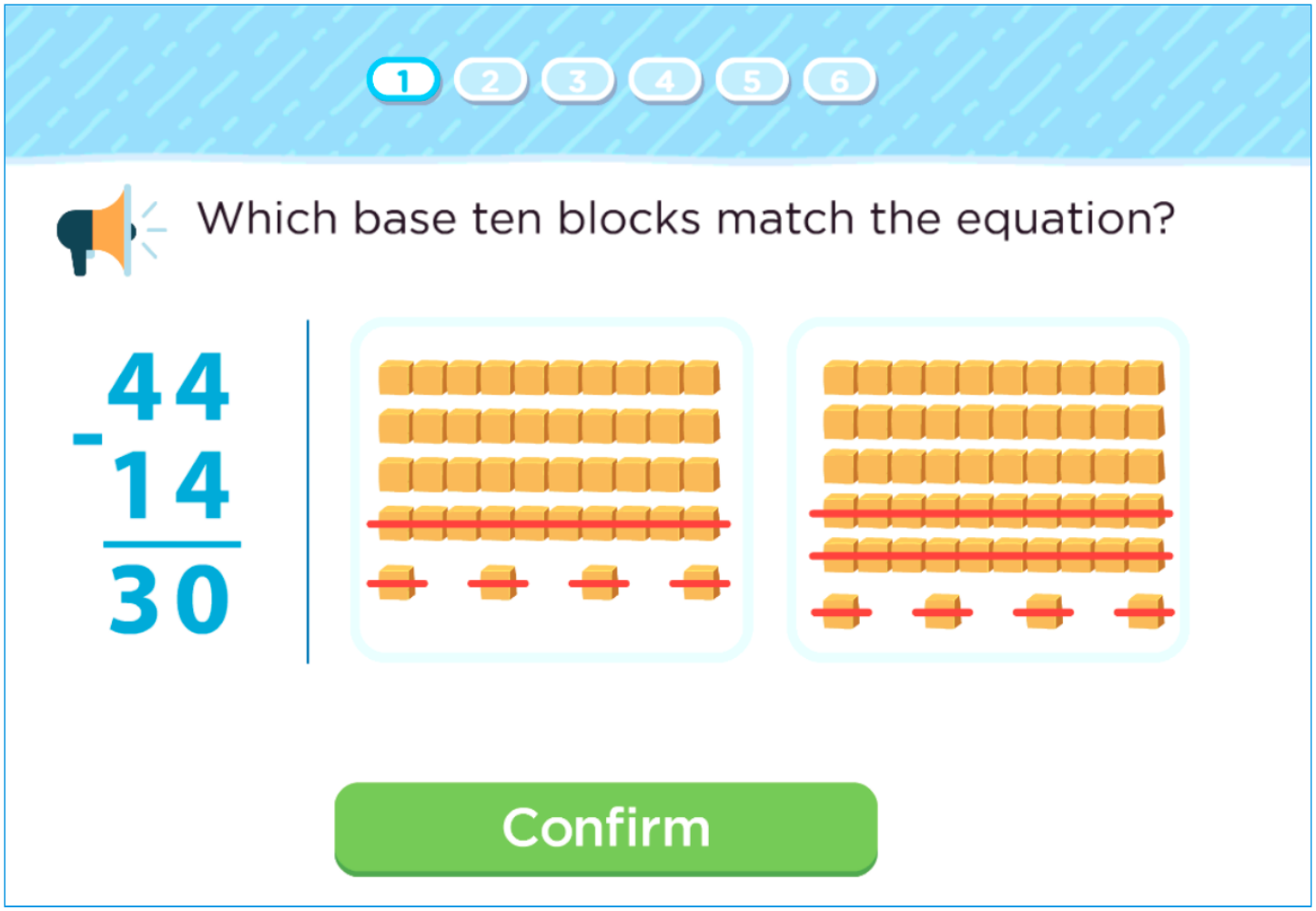


4 tens and 7 ones

5 tens and 8 ones

5 tens and 6 ones

Confirm



- Additional practice: Check out this catalog for more adding and subtracting within 100.

Off-Screen Fun: Grab some LEGO bricks or any simple item like coins or snack pieces for small math challenges.Have your child count out a certain number of blocks and have them “spend” or “give away” a certain number to see how many are left. In the classroom I played “ Build It and Break It” where my students would build a number with their snacks and break it down using subtraction stories. They loved using the snacks for math and eating it at the end was always a plus.

2. Understanding Place Value

> What it is: Recognizing that a number with two digits is made up of tens and ones, and being able to break apart and combine numbers easily.

Why it matters: Place value helps students understand why math is the way it is. This skill is very important for regrouping, estimating, and comparing numbers. When I asked a student struggling with “62 – 49” to model the numbers with base ten blocks, she finally understood regrouping by seeing she couldn’t subtract 9 ones from 2 ones.

Try These:

- Worksheet: Transportation Math

Transportation Math: Place Value

Which number comes after the number shown on the plane?
Circle the correct answer.

8 tens 9 ones

89 90 99

5 tens 6 ones

55 50 57

7 tens 2 ones

73 72 77

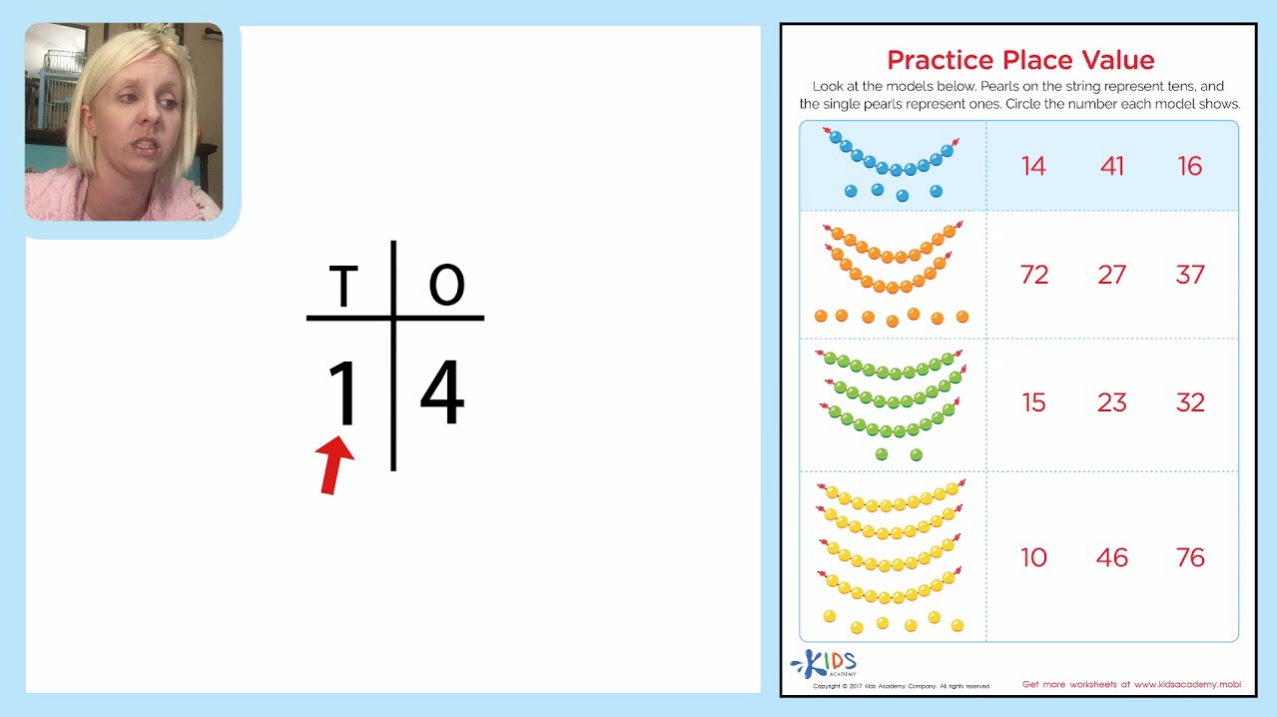
4 tens 7 ones

46 50 48

6 tens 4 ones

64 65 62

• Video: Practice Place Value



Watch on YouTube

• Quiz: Comparing Two Digit Numbers

• Additional practice: Check out this catalog of more place value activities.

Off-Screen Fun: Place value can be turned into a fun building game using straws, toothpicks, or craft sticks. Make groups of ten and then add extras to make numbers 46 or 72. I used to set up a “Place Value Store” in the classroom where students had to buy a certain number using tens and ones. Students who practiced this at home had a better understanding that 64 isn’t just sixty-four, it is 6 tens and 4 ones.

3. Skip Counting by 2’s, 5s, and 10s

> What it is: Counting forward or backwards by groups, such as 2, 4, 6… or 10, 20, 30…

Why it matters: Skip counting is the foundation for multiplication and is a skill that is used in time, money, and pattern recognition. I remember one student who couldn’t tell time because she hadn’t mastered counting by 5s. We practiced daily with songs and games, and those who practiced at home already came in fluent and ready to learn multiplication.

Try These:

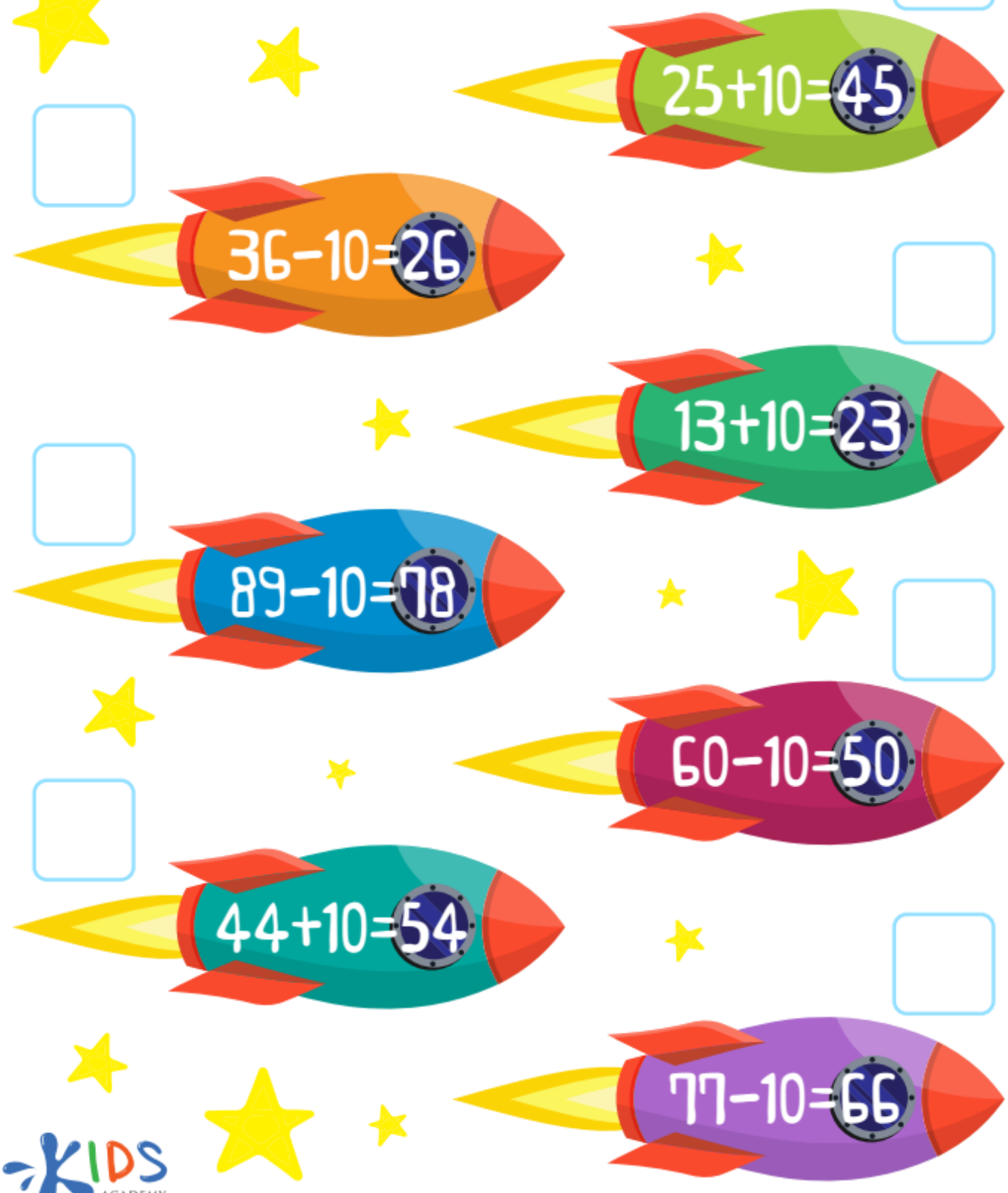
• Videos: Skip Counting By 5s, Skip Count By 10s, Skip Count By 2s

Watch on YouTube

• Worksheet: Rocket Math

Rocket Math

Let's add and subtract by ten!
Check the rockets with correct equations.



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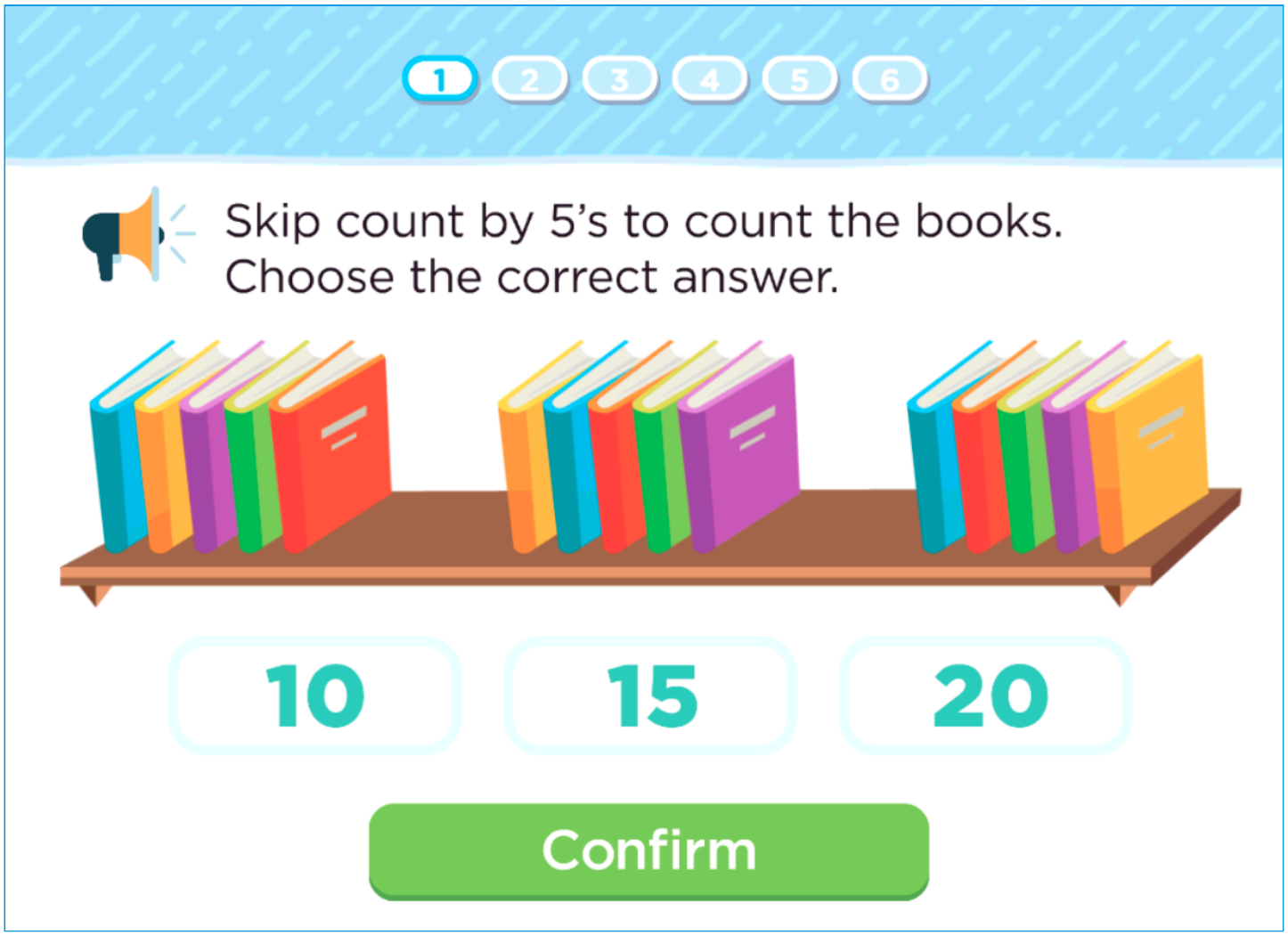
• Quiz: Skip Count By 5s and 10



• Additional practice: Check out this lesson for more skip counting fun.

Off-Screen Fun: Including movement in practice helps children remember better. Clap by 5s while walking, or hop by 2s across the room, or skip count by 10s while jumping rope outside. In my classroom, I would tape the number to the floor and have the students hop along in a pattern, sometimes even as frogs or robots.

4. Solving Word Problems

> What it is: Using math operations to solve short stories or real world scenarios.

Why it matters: Word problems require reading comprehension and math reasoning. Acting out problems helped students connect math to real life.When students acted out problems using toys or drawings, I saw better comprehension and more accurate answers.

Try These:

- Lesson: Draw It Out

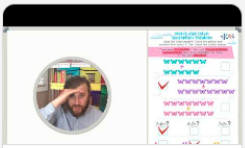
Estimated classroom time: 17 min | Chapter: Word Problems Sums and Differences within 20 | Unit: Applications in Operations Within 100

Click on any activity below to start learning.

1st 3:00 min ▶ 2nd 4:00 min ▶ 3rd 3:00 min ▶ 4th 3:00 min ▶ 5th 4:00 min

Guess the Word Problem Worksheet

Worksheet

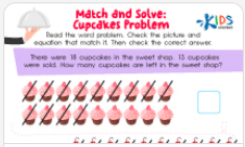


Match and Solve: Butterflies Problem

Video

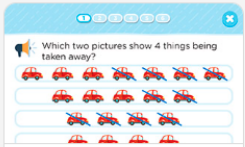
Match and Solve: Butterfly Problem Worksheet

Worksheet



Match and Solve: Cupcakes Problem Worksheet

Worksheet



Writing Equations with Matching Drawings

Quiz

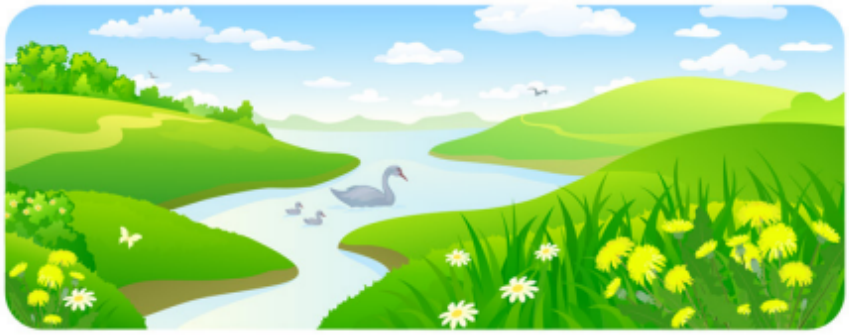
- Worksheet: Addition and Subtraction Word Problems within 100

ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION WITHIN 100:

Assessment 2

Read the word problems below. Check the equation that matches the problem, then circle the correct total.

1. There were 25 flowers along a stream. 21 were dandelions. If the rest were daisies, how many daisies were there?



21 + ? = 25 ☐ 21 + 25 = ? ☐

2 daisies 3 daisies 4 daisies

2.

There were 25 flowers on a windy mountain. At the end of the day, there were 11 flowers left. How many flowers blew away?

? - 25 = 11 ☐ 25 - ? = 11 ☐

26 flowers 14 flowers

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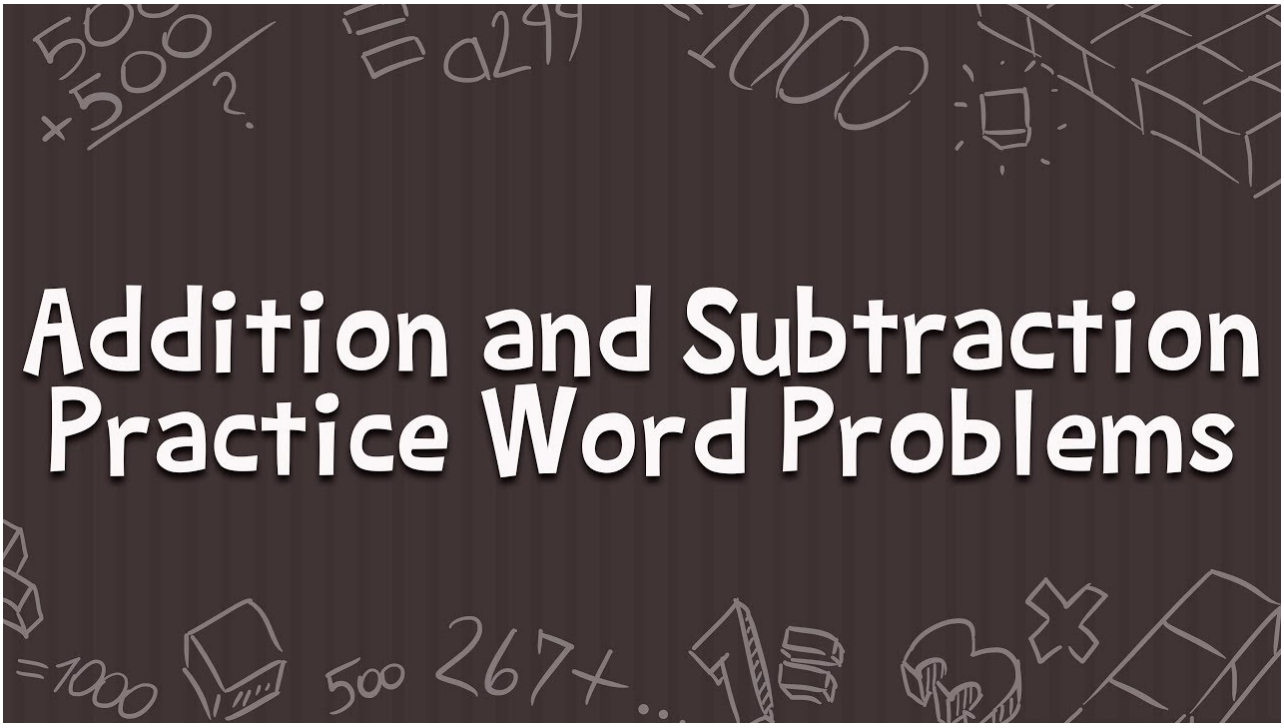
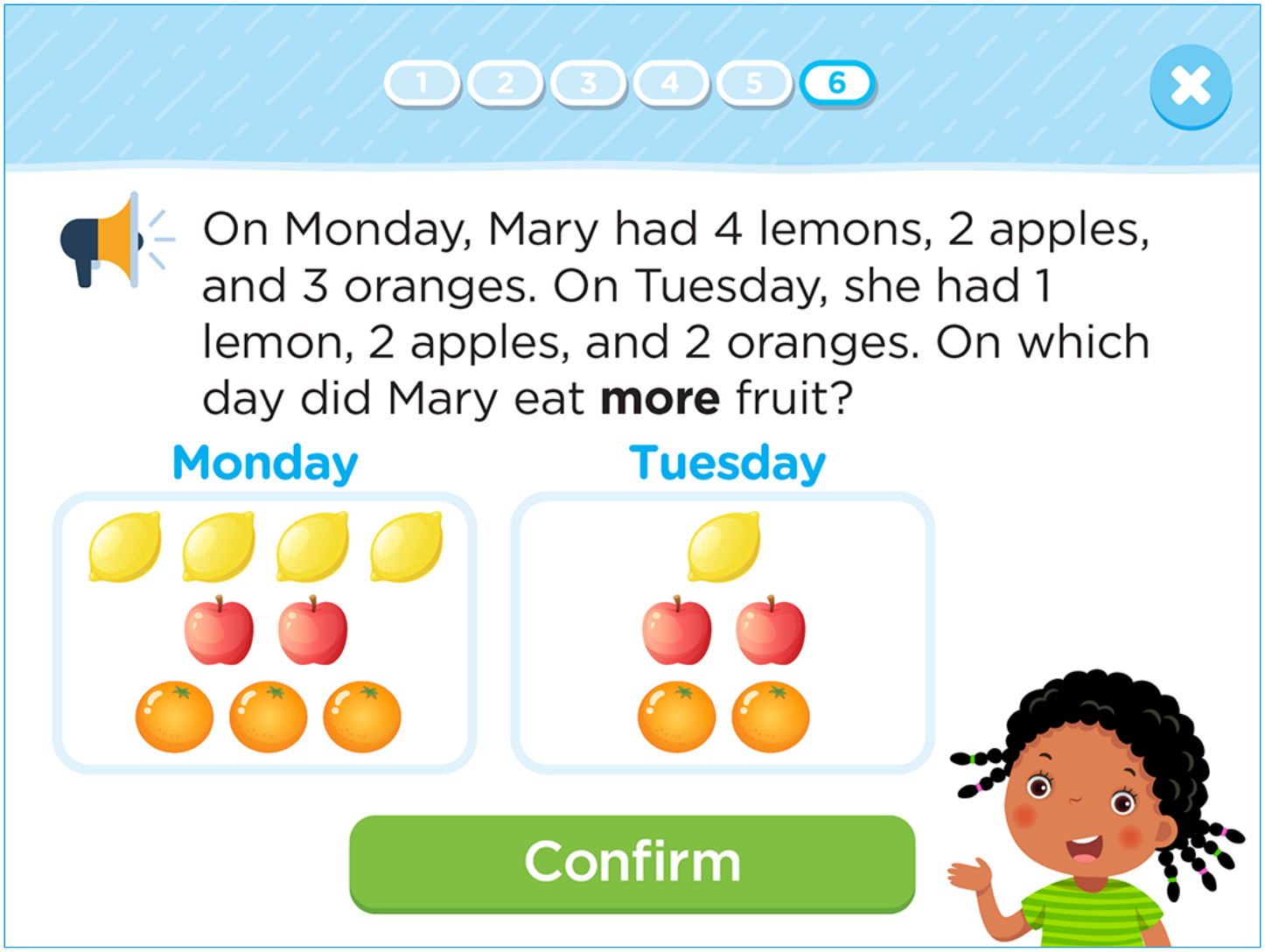
• Video: Addition and Subtraction Word Problems



Watch on YouTube

• Quiz: Solve Tricky Equations



• Additional practice: Check out this catalog of many more word problems activities.

Off-Screen Fun: Use toys or snacks to act out problems: “You had 10 crackers and gave 3 away. How many now?” I’d have students create their own story problems with cubes or counters. This made math feel like storytelling and helped those that were more reluctant be more engaged learners. .

PREVIEWING 2nd GRADE MATH SKILLS

If your child is feeling confident with the first grade review, it’s a great time to introduce some of the math skills they’ll see in 2nd grade. The following skills are a preview of what your child will see, the more practice the better.

5. Adding and Subtracting Within 1,000

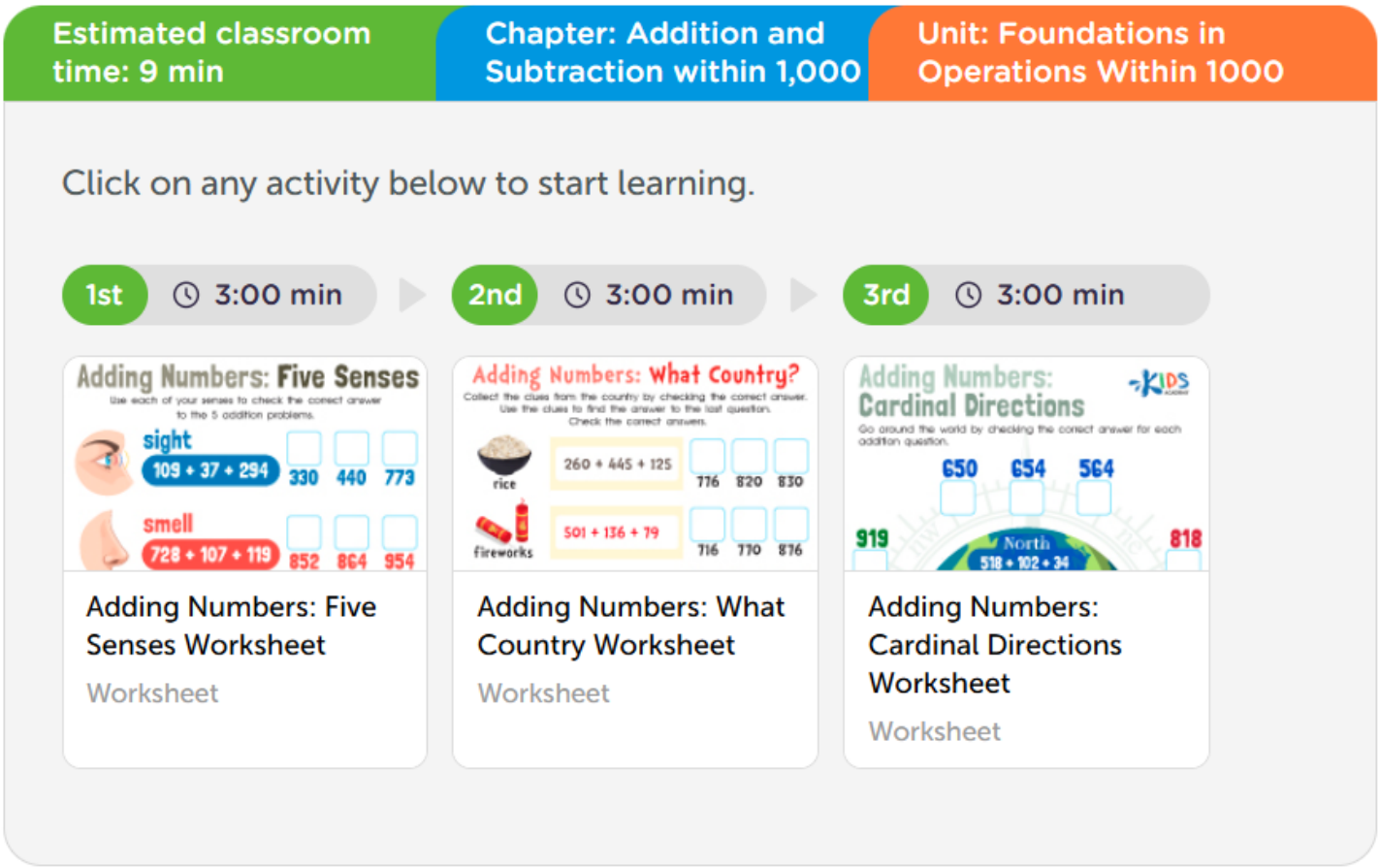
What it is: Solving problems with three digit numbers using place value strategies and regrouping.

Why it matters: Students work with numbers up to 1,000 in 2nd grade and begin learning regrouping.You can start by giving your child 3 digit numbers and having them add or

subtract without regrouping. Use base ten blocks or draw place value charts to help visualize their thinking. I used to introduce this skill by building numbers with base ten blocks and letting students trade tens for ones or hundreds for tens.

Try These:

- Lesson: Add within 1,000



- Worksheet: Presidential Maze: Addition and Subtraction

Presidential Maze:
Addition and Subtraction

Help the President of the United States make his way to the White House by counting the votes that were tallied correctly. Draw a line through all the addition and subtraction problems that are solved correctly.

Start

569
-342
227

876
-543
321

246
+621
947

461
+362
823

901
-210
791

294
-175
119

541
+299
710

688
+291
979

871
-355
524

736
-519
217

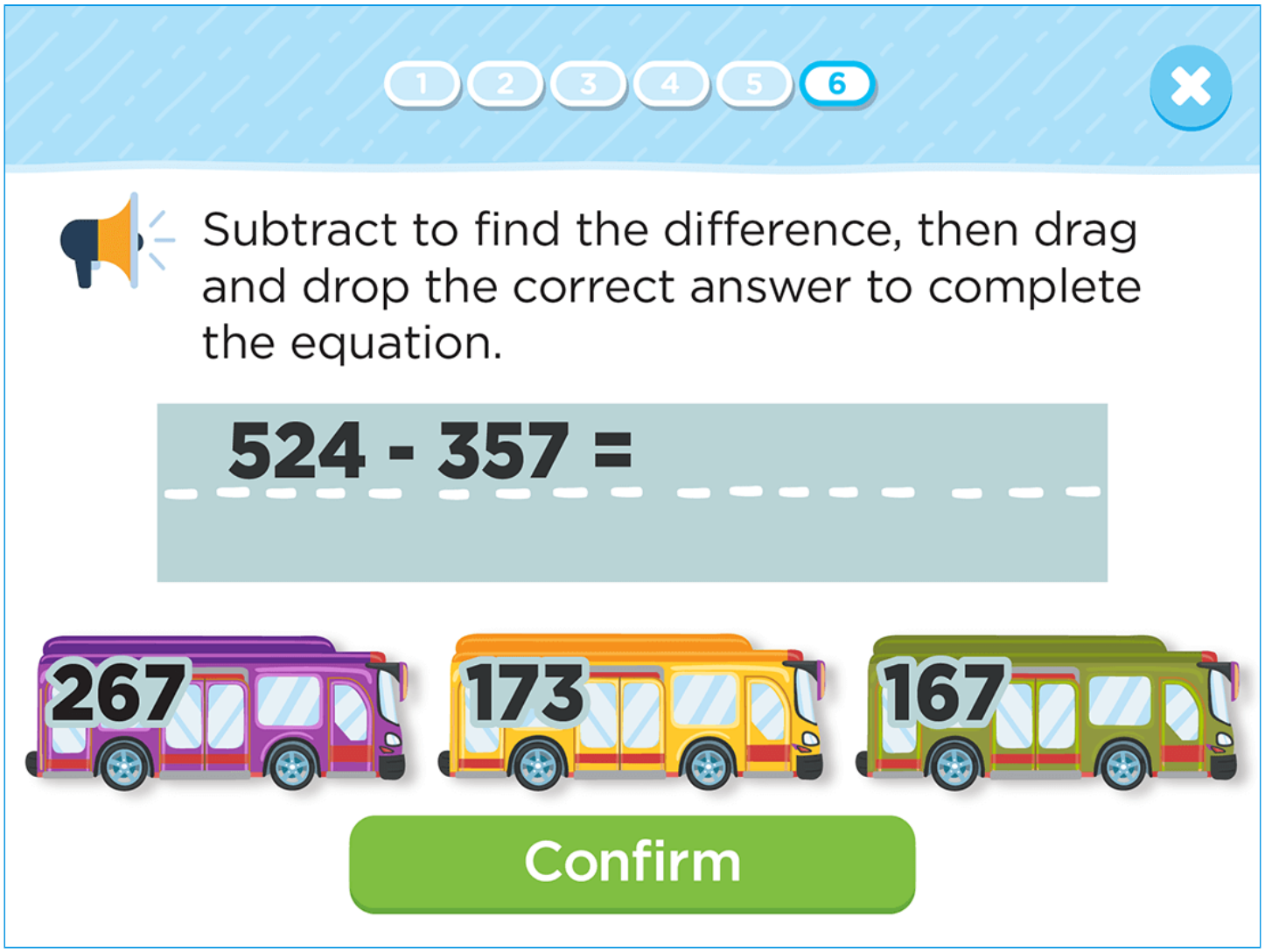
123
+779
812

215
+512
727

987
-654
333

Finish

- Quiz: Adding and Subtracting 3 Digit Numbers



- Additional practice: Check out this catalog of more addition and subtraction activities for grade 2.

Off-Screen Fun: Use objects like Legos, coins, or sticky notes to build three digit numbers and act out addition or subtraction problems. For example, show 243 using two hundreds, four tens, and three ones, then “add” 120 by trading and combining pieces. In the classroom, I often used base ten blocks and would tell stories like “A delivery truck brings 100 more blocks to the store,how many are there now?” Keeps it fun and engaging off screen.

TIPS TO MAKE SUMMER MATH COUNT

- Making mistakes is part of the process: Remind your child that it’s okay to get things wrong, and that what matters is trying again. I used to tell my students, “Mistakes mean you are trying!”

- Talk through their thinking: Help your child think out loud and ask questions like “How did you solve that?” or “Can you think of another way to find the answer?” Talking through their steps helps them have a deeper understanding.

- Build on what they know: Start with the easy concepts first , then slowly add in more complex skills. Confidence grows when children feel like they’re building from something that they already know.

EXPLORE MORE

Explore full categories for more math practice:

- Telling Time
- Geometry
- Measuring

CONCLUSION

All of the above skills are the ones that I consistently revisited during the first weeks of 2nd grade. When the students come in with these skills already in place, the difference is very clear to me. They are more prepared to engage with new concepts and less likely to feel overwhelmed when challenges arise throughout the school year.

Keeping math skills fun, engaging and active throughout the summer helps your child builds speed for the upcoming school year. Having worked with many students myself transitioning into 2nd grade, I’ve seen firsthand how those who maintain their math practice return more confident and prepared to tackle new challenges with excitement.