

Times Tables

When it comes to times tables, speed and accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week. And this is where you come in. For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practice, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child.

Below are some ways for your child to practise their times tables.

1. Read the times tables out loud – you will find a link on the class website to download all the times tables written out from the 3s up to the 12s. Together with your child, read the times tables that we are focusing on that week. Do it a second time round but this time your child should be trying to say them without reading them from the page.


2. Scatter tables – you will find a link on the class website to download Scatter Tables. To use them, you call out a question from the times table you are focusing on and your child should point to the answer on the page. For example, if you are concentrating on the 5 times table, then find the Scatter Table for the 5s and call out questions like, “9 times 5” (your child points to 45), “6 times 5” (your child points to 30) or “5 times 12” (your child points to 60).

3. Write tables on a piece of paper – Your child should write down the times tables being focused on that week. Any piece of paper will do.


4. Play online – Your child should have a login for trockstars.com from their class teacher. Then they should play for a short while until they are successfully answering the questions quickly. Let your child’s teacher know if you have difficulty accessing the internet or difficulty getting on to trockstars.com.

Year 3/4 Maths Lesson

The Problem - Bipods and Tripods



Tripods have 3 legs.



Bipods have 2 legs.

Some Tripods and Bipods flew from planet Zero.
There were at least two of each of them.

There were 23 legs altogether.
How many Tripods were there?
How many Bipods were there?
Find as many different answers as you can!

Why do this problem?

This problem focuses on numbers that are multiples of 2 and 3 and offers a motivating context in which to develop instant recall of them. It also provides an opportunity for learners to discuss alternative strategies and to consider the merits of each.

Approach

Children enjoy considering strange forms of life in imaginary planets and these weird creatures with different numbers of legs should appeal to them. We will begin by telling the story in more detail and introducing a simpler version of the problem, for example.

After this learners will work in pairs on the actual problem. Listening to learners as they work can be an interesting insight to their thinking. Some children may like to use practical resources to help them with their thinking such as playdough and straws.

At the end of the lesson learners will share not only their solutions but also their methods. Some may have used a trial and improvement approach, either with the materials provided or using pictures; some may have written lists of multiples of 2 and 3 in a very systematic way and then made totals. Children will consider whether some strategies are more effective than others. Having the freedom to approach this problem in any way is key, but in talking to others, some pupils might change the way they work, which is interesting in itself.

Key questions

What have you tried so far?

What happens if you replace this two-legged creature with some three-legged creatures?

What happens if you replace these three-legged creature with some two-legged creatures?

Possible extension

Learners investigate other possible numbers of legs of a group of Bipods and Tripods. Perhaps some can be done in more than one way. How many ways can be found for each target number? The investigations can go on and on!

7 Times Table

49

28

14

70

77

84

7

56

63

42

35

21