



GRADE 3 MATHEMATICS—Unit 3

Dear Parents,

Here is what your child is learning in Grade 3, Unit 3 along with some specific ways you can help. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

NUMBER RELATIONSHIPS AND COMPUTATION

Students need to:

- Demonstrate mastery of multiplication facts for 0, 1, 2, 5, and 10.
- Solve multiplication and division problems using a variety of strategies.
- Solve problems using estimation techniques and number properties.

Examples:

1. Write the missing number in each number sentence.

a. $5 \times \underline{\quad} = 30$ b. $10 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$

Sample responses:

a. 6 b. 80

2. a. Multiply. $8 \times 4 = \underline{\quad}$
b. Explain how to use a multiplication strategy to find the answer. Use numbers, words, or pictures in your explanation.

Sample responses:

a. 32
b. 8 groups of 4 is the same as 5 groups of 4 + 3 groups of 4,
 $20 + 12 = 32$.
or
 $5 \times 4 = 20$ and $20 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 32$.

3. a. Seth has 27 boxes of cookies. Each box contains 5 cookies. Estimate the total number of cookies.
b. Use what you know about estimation to explain how you found your answer.

Sample responses:

a. Estimates range from 125-150.
b. 27 is close to 30. $30 \times 5 = 150$.
or
27 is close to 25. A quarter is 25¢, and 4 quarters are 100¢.
 $100 + 25 = 125$.

For additional activities, visit www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math.

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

- Give your child 20 objects. Ask your child to divide the objects into groups of 2. Then, ask, “How many groups did you make?” Repeat for groups of 5 and then for groups of 10.
- Estimate costs at the grocery store. If one can of tomatoes costs 59¢, estimate the cost of 3 cans.



- It is important that your child has strategies for learning basic facts *before* practicing them for mastery. Here are a few strategies to help your child explore basic multiplication and division facts.

Skip Counting

Many children can count by 2s, 5s, and 10s. To multiply 5×3 , your child might skip count, “Five, ten, fifteen,” holding up one finger for each count. Three fingers are up, so $5 \times 3 = 15$.

Commutative Property or “Turn Around Rule”

3×5 is equal to 5×3 . Once your child understands the “turn around rule,” there are half as many facts to learn!

Using Known Facts to Learn New Facts

Help your child see how facts are related. For example, the 4s facts are doubles of the 2s facts. If 2 groups of 3 equals 6, then 4 groups of 3 equals 12.

Fact Families

A **fact triangle** can be used as an alternative to traditional flash cards. Cover one of the numbers and ask your child to determine the missing number from the fact family.

Fact Triangle

