

M1 Maths – Fun and Games

Number Facts Race

Aim

To increase number fact fluency. It is suitable for students from Year 5 to Year 10.

Groups

Arrange the class into a number of equal groups. Groups can be any size from 2 up, but about 4 to 5 is ideal.

If you have say 5 groups, keep 5 students who have good command of their number facts separate and assign one to each group as a judge.

Each group sits in a circle with the judge outside the circle. The judge writes the numbers from 2 to 9 on a piece of paper.

Procedure

Inform the groups which set of number facts will be worked on. Let's say we do the 4 times table. Give the groups a few minutes to try to make sure they have good recall of those facts.

On the word 'Go' from the teacher, one person in each group says a number from 2 to 9. Going clockwise around the group, the next person multiplies the number by 4, states the answer, then picks a different number from 2 to 9. The next person multiplies that by 4, gives the answer, then picks another number and so on.

The judge ticks off each number from 2 to 9 as it is called out. When all 8 numbers have been called, the judge yells 'Finished' and, if first, that team wins the race. The other teams continue until all are finished.

One rule worth having is that each number from 2 to 9 called out must be at least 2 different from the previous one, unless there are no other options left.

Also, if a group member can't remember what numbers haven't been called, s/he can say 'What's left?' and the judge will tell them a number (differing by at least 2 from the previous one if possible).

Variations

Different rounds will use different sets of number facts, e.g. the 8 times table, or adding 5.

The numbers from 2-9 can be extended by including any or all of 0, 1, 10, 11 and 12.