



Beyond Equations: Fueling Kids' Problem-Solving Skills with Math Challenges

Session Handout

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Session Summary Notes

Benefits of Using Math Challenges

- ~ Gives students an opportunity to apply math learning to new contexts
- ~ Allows students to experiment with the strategies that work best for them
- ~ Can be less overwhelming for students
- ~ Develops critical thinking skills

Math Challenge Examples to Try

- ~ Find the Number Pattern

Example:

Find the number pattern: 2, 6, 5, 9, 8

- ~ How Many Ways?

Example:

How many ways can you show an equation that equals 1,251?

- ~ The Four Fours Challenge

- ~ What Order?

Example:

$$7 \ 5 \ 1 \ 9 = 3$$

$$(7+5)-(1 \times 9) = 3$$

- ~ Math Riddles

- ~ Guess the Number

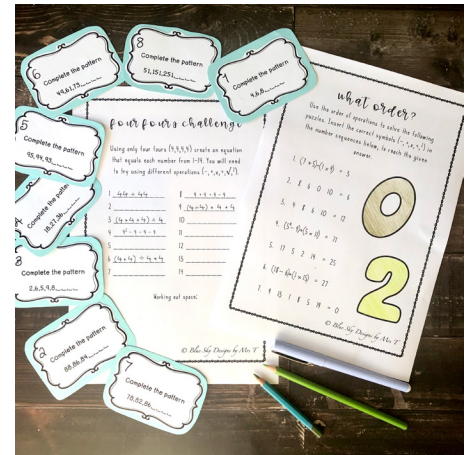


Notes:

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Ways to Turn Any Task Into a Math Challenge

- ~ Find the Number Pattern
- ~ How Many Ways?
- ~ Number Crosswords
- ~ Number Searches
- ~ Secret Code



Math Challenges That Work Well with Each Math Topic

- ~ Counting - Find the Number Pattern & Guess the Number
- ~ Number Sense - Find the Number Pattern & Guess the Number
- ~ Place Value - Find the Number Pattern, How Many Ways, & Guess the Number
- ~ Basic Operations - Find the Number Pattern & Number Crosswords / Searches
- ~ Order of Operations - The Four Fours Challenge, What Order, & Secret Code
- ~ Algebra - The Four Fours Challenge, Number Searches, & Secret Code
- ~ Fractions - Find the Number / Fraction Pattern & Guess the Number / Fraction
- ~ Measurement - Find the Number / Measurement Pattern & How Many Ways
- ~ Data - Find the Number / Data Pattern & How Many Ways (Displaying Data)
- ~ Geometry - Find the Number / Shape Pattern & Guess the Number / Shape
- ~ Money - Number Crosswords & Number Searches (with money amounts)
- ~ General Problem Solving - Math Riddles, Guess the Number, & Secret Code

Notes:



Further Resources

If you're after some extra support, I've got some further resources available to help you!

Fueling Problem-Solving Skills with Math Challenges

Find more resources on this topic by visiting the following page:

[Using Math Challenges to Help Kids with Problem Solving.](#)

View all of my math blog posts to find more

[Engaging Math Teaching Ideas.](#)

Feel free to email me at blueskydesignsbymrst@gmail.com if you have any questions about the content I've shared in this session.

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