

Fluency Activities

Grade 1

First Grade Fluency Activities

Math fluency activities in Imagine+ Math help students develop accuracy, efficiency, and flexibility in mathematical thinking. They provide structured practice to strengthen number sense, reinforce foundational skills, and build automaticity with key math concepts. Fluency activities increase student confidence by engaging them in problem-solving, developing a deeper understanding of mathematical relationships, and preparing them for more complex tasks.

Some activities require materials found in your classroom.

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Activity 1

Race to Make 10

Topic/Concept

Adding to Make Ten

Objective

Students will find two numbers that add to 10.

Materials

- Deck of cards (numbers 1–9 only) – *Print an extra 5, if possible*
- Whiteboards or paper

Steps

1. **Ready, Set:** Place cards face down spread out in a big pile.
2. **GO!:** Each student flips two cards and tries to make 10 using addition.
3. **Finish:** If they make 10, they keep the pair; if not, they return the cards to the pile. Continue until all pairs are found.
4. **Extend the Challenge:** Work together to find groups of three numbers that add to 10.

Resource List

- Deck of cards (numbers 1–9 only)

Deck of Cards (Numbers 1–9 only)

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Topic/Concept

Repeating Patterns

Objective

Students will build, describe, and extend repeating patterns.

Materials

- Linking cubes or colored tiles

Steps

1. **Start a Pattern:** Create a repeating pattern, such as red-blue-red-blue.
2. **Repeat Together:** Have students extend the pattern with their cubes.
3. **Extend the Pattern:** Challenge students to create their own pattern and explain the rule.
4. **Challenge:** Try assigning numbers to the colors (e.g., red = 2, blue = 5).

Resource List

no additional resources needed

Activity 3

Shape Sort and Match

Topic/Concept

Comparing Shapes

Objective

Students will compare shapes and explain why they belong in the same group.

Materials

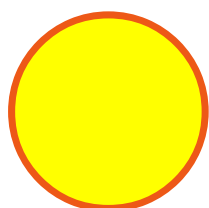
- Shape cards (2D and 3D)
- Optional: Sorting mats with labels (sides, corners, flat, solid)

Steps

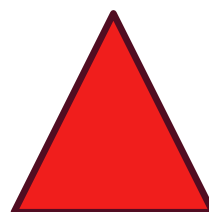
1. **Get In Shape:** Give students a set of shapes and review their names.
2. **Time to Sort:** Ask them to sort shapes by attributes (e.g., number of sides, flat vs. solid).
3. **Describe It:** Students compare as a class and describe why a shape belongs in its group.
4. **Extend:** Have students find shapes around the room for each category.

Resource List

- Shape cards (2D and 3D)



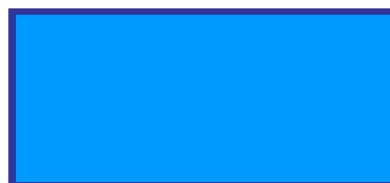
circle



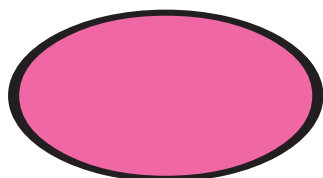
triangle



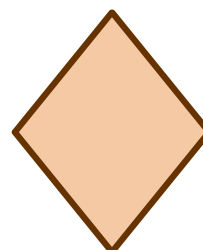
square



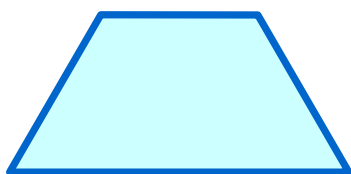
rectangle



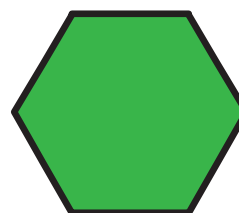
oval



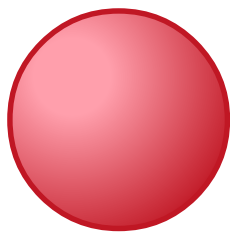
rhombus



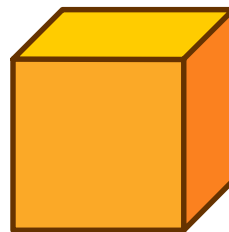
trapezoid



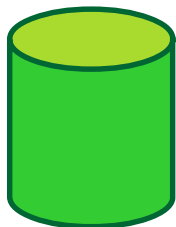
hexagon



sphere



cube



cylinder



cone



rectangular prism

Activity 4

We're In a Graph!

Topic/Concept

Sorting and Graphing Data

Objective

Students will sort data into categories and show the results on a class graph.

Materials

- Chart paper
- Sticky notes
- Markers

Steps

1. **Pose a Question:** “How many siblings do you have?”
2. **Collect Data:** Each student writes their name on a sticky note and places it on a pre-made chart above the correct number.
3. **Draw the Bars:** Draw an outline of a bar around each line of sticky notes. Add numbers to the vertical side of the bar graph. Ask questions like “What is the most common number of siblings to have?” or “How many more students have two siblings than are only children?”
4. **Extend:** Have students work in groups to ask their own question and create a bar graph.

Resource List

- Possible questions to ask students:
 - How many siblings do you have?
 - How many letters are in your first name? (organize it by letter or by range: 1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8+)
 - How do you get to school? (walk, car, bus, bike)
 - What is your favorite recess activity? (choose four based on what's available)
 - Which superpower would you most like to have? (ability to fly, ability to turn invisible, super strength, super speed)

Activity 5

Wants vs. Needs Sort

Topic/Concept

Identifying Needs and Wants

Objective

Students will sort items into needs and wants and explain their choices.

Materials

- Picture cards of items (e.g., food, toys, clothes, video games, books)
- Two large labels (“Needs” and “Wants”) placed in opposite corners of the room

Steps

1. **Define and Discuss:** Review the difference between needs (things we must have to live) and wants (things we’d like to have).
2. **Sort Together:** Pass out one card to each student. Have them walk to the part of the room that represents their card.
3. **Student Discussion:** Students in each category discuss their cards, deciding if anyone needs to move.
4. **Follow-Up Talk:** Discuss why some items may feel like both and how families make choices.
5. **Extend:** Reflect on why saving can help buy both needs and wants.

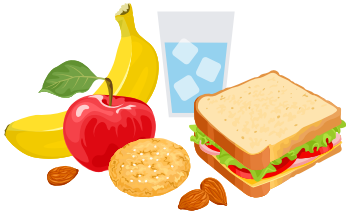
Resource List

- Picture cards of items

Picture Cards of Items

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NEEDS



food/water



shirt



home/house



pants



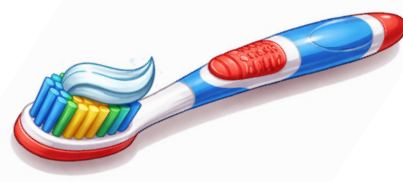
bed



soap



shoes



toothbrush



coat/jacket



doctor/medicine

Picture Cards of Items

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WANTS



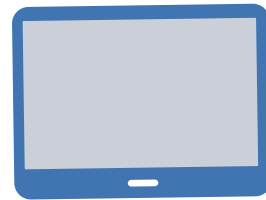
toy



movie ticket



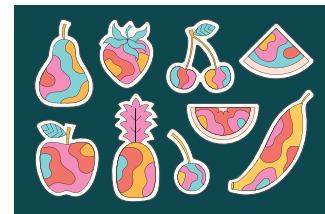
stuffed animal



tablet



video game



stickers



candy



trading cards



ice cream



fancy hat/costume

Picture Cards of Items

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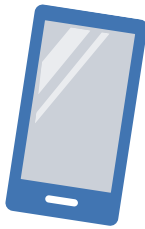
EITHER — great for discussion (*need for school vs. want for fun*)



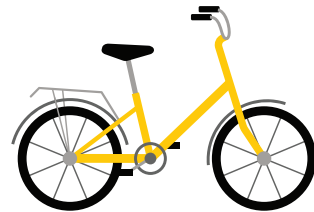
book



sports equipment



cell phone



new bike

