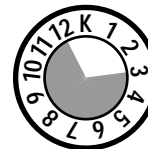


Today's Date

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Learn fun facts about the number in today's date!

Note: This lesson plan covers the numbers 1 – 31. In this issue will be 11 – 16. (See previous issues of *TOMT* for 1 – 10.) The author welcomes suggestions to add to each number. Please send your ideas to her at the email address listed above or to your *TOMT* editors.

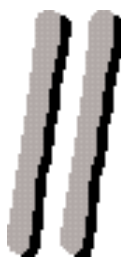
Lesson Goal: To develop a meaning for numbers

Materials: None needed except a chalkboard or overhead.

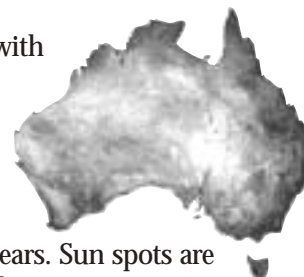
Instructions for

this Activity: Write on the board or overhead (or verbally share) a fun fact about the number in today's date. This idea can be extended if you wish to take advantage of the opportunity to explore further the math vocabulary/concept, related science mentioned, or historical point introduced by the number fact.

It's a fact that...



- Eleven is a prime number.
- Soccer, football and field hockey are all played with teams of eleven players on the field.
- Kermit the Frog is left-handed and has eleven points on his collar.
- About one-fifth of Australia is covered by its eleven deserts.
- The sun spot cycle repeats about every eleven years. Sun spots are dark spots on the surface of the sun. The spots have intense magnetic fields which are associated with magnetic storms on earth.
- Eleven is the fourth number that stays the same when written upside down.



It's a fact that...



- There are twelve months in a year.
- Most housecats have twelve whiskers on each side of their nose.
- There are twelve inches in a foot.
- Twelve o'clock is midday or midnight.
- It takes twelve people 20 hours to make one Oscar statuette. Each year 50 – 60 Oscars are manufactured, but if they don't pass strict standards they are instantly cut in half and melted down.
- A dodecahedron has a regular pentagon on each of its twelve faces.
- A cube has twelve edges.
- Monaco is about the size of twelve New York City blocks.
- The average person takes from twelve to eighteen breaths per minute.
- On one hand you can count off the numbers from one to twelve by touching the joints of your fingers with your thumb. There are many good arguments for counting in twelves rather than in tens.



CONTINUED →

13

It's a fact that...

- Thirteen is a prime number.
- Thirteen is a Fibonacci number (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13...).
- Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number thirteen. Thirteen is considered the "unlucky number."
- The number of hearts (and spades, and clubs and diamonds in a pack of cards) is thirteen.
- Thirteen is a baker's dozen.



14

It's a fact that...

- There are fourteen days in a fortnight.
- February 14th is St. Valentine's day.
- Gorillas and cats sleep about fourteen hours a day.
- The sparrow has fourteen bones in its tiny neck, whereas the giraffe and humans have only seven.
- The humble woodlouse has fourteen legs arranged as seven pairs.
- A cuboctahedron is a solid with fourteen sides. It has six squares and eight equilateral triangles.

15

It's a fact that...

- Fifteen is a triangular number ($1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 15$).
- There are fifteen nations that gave women the right to vote before the United States did in 1920. The earliest were New Zealand, in 1893, Australia, in 1902, and Finland, in 1906.
- A simple, moderately severe sunburn damages the blood vessels to such an extent that it takes four to fifteen months for them to return to their normal condition.
- President John Tyler had fifteen children.
- One out of every fifteen American adults got his or her first job with McDonald's.

16

It's a fact that...

- Sixteen is a square number ($4 \times 4 = 16$).
- There are sixteen ounces in a pound.
- Sixteen pieces are used by each player in a game of chess.
- Caterpillars typically have sixteen legs. But when they emerge from their chrysalis as a butterfly or moth, they have only six legs.



received our first comment on this article from Marion Walter, Math Professor at the University of Oregon.

Greetings: I like your article on number work with the date! Below is a reference that you and other teachers might find useful and have fun with (though it has a bit of a British slant) because it has also lots of pictures that lead to geometric ideas. Also a small suggestion for your next dose of dates. After the teacher has done this activity once or twice, ask students to contribute their own "finds." I bet your students have fun! This is the book: *Numbers — Facts, Figures and Fiction*, by Richard Phillips, Cambridge University Press, 1994, ISBN 0-521-464811.

To be continued...