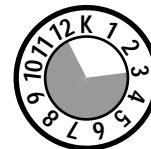


Today's Date

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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 6 – 10. (See last issue of *TOMT* for 1 – 5.) The author welcomes suggestions to add to each number. Please send your ideas to her at the email 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...

- Six is the highest number on a standard die.
- Six is a triangular number, meaning that it is the sum of a group of consecutive integers starting with 1 ($1 + 2 + 3 = 6$).
- The factors of six (1, 2 and 3) add up to six. This makes six the first perfect number.
- A cube has six faces and another name for a cube is a hexahedron.
- There are six sides and six angles on a hexagon.
- Six musicians are in a sextet.
- Volleyball and ice hockey are both played with teams of six players.
- The Star of David has six points.
- You score six points for a touchdown in the game of football.

It's a fact that...

- Seven is a prime number.
- There are seven days in a week.
- A heptagon is a figure with seven sides and seven angles.
- "Sept-" means seven. September was once the seventh month in the year.
- There are Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (Great Pyramid of Giza, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Statue of Zeus at Olympia, The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, The Colossus of Rhodes and The Lighthouse of Alexandria).
- 7-Up is a soft drink. It was invented in America in the 1920s by Mr. C. L. Griggs of Missouri who originally called it "Bib-label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Soda." With a name like that sales were poor even though the drink tasted good and so Mr. Griggs changed the name.
- Ask a number of different people to give you any number between one and ten, and most will choose seven.



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- The amount of information which people can process and remember is often limited to about seven items.
- Snow White knows seven dwarves: Doc, Bashful, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy and Sneezy.
- It takes a lobster approximately seven years to grow to be one pound.
- There are seven species of bears: the American black bear, the Asian black bear, the brown bear, the polar bear, the sloth bear, the spectacled bear and the sun bear.

It's a fact that...

8

- Eight is a cube ($2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$).
- Eight is the third number that stays the same when written upside down.
- Birds don't fly by flapping their wings up and down. The motion is more forward and backward, like a figure eight on its side.
- Eight is a Fibonacci number (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13...).
- According to Indian mythology, the Earth is supported on the backs of eight white elephants.
- An octagon has eight sides and eight angles.
- Eight pints make a gallon.
- There are eight legs on a spider. Scorpions also have eight legs.
- A cube has eight corners or vertices.
- In the game of pool, the Eight Ball is a black ball.
- An octopus has eight arms.
- An octet is a group of eight musicians.
- The amount of cloud in the sky is measured in oktas on a scale from zero to eight. Eight oktas means the sky is totally clouded and a totally clear sky measures zero oktas.

It's a fact that...

9

- A blue whale's heart beats only nine times per minute.
- Nine is a square number ($3 \times 3 = 9$).
- There are nine planets in the solar system (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto).
- Cougar kittens are born with their eyes closed, and they don't open them for about nine days.
- A polygon with nine angles and nine sides is called a nonagon.
- Redivider with nine letters is the longest palindromic word in the English language. A palindromic word has the same sequence of letters backwards or forwards.



It's a fact that...

10

- A hibernating woodchuck breathes only ten times per hour. An active woodchuck breathes 2,100 times an hour.
- Ten is a triangular number, meaning that it is the sum of a group of consecutive integers starting with 1 ($1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$).
- Ten is a tetrahedral number — the sum of the first three triangular numbers.
- Cats have more than 100 vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
- Crabs walk sideways to keep from tripping over their own legs. They have ten legs, 8 for walking and 2 pincers for picking up food.
- Metric measurements use units in multiples of ten.

To be continued....