

Magic Box

Created by:
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Fall 2015



The Task

Your Grandma gives you a wooden box for your birthday. When you unwrapped the gift and opened the box, you were expecting some cash inside but found the box was empty. You felt bad for not appreciating the box, and decided you could use it to store important things. Just before you go to bed, you open the box to put a photo inside, and see 2 pennies. When you check the box at the end of the second day, you count 4 pennies. At the end of Day 3, you count 8 pennies. How many pennies will be in the box after 10 days? 15 days? 20 days? Can you come up with a rule to find the number of pennies in the box on any day?

Big Ideas

- Students extend their knowledge of patterns developed in the elementary grades and through life experiences by investigating and describing functional relationships.
- Students learn to represent relations by using ordered pairs, tables, rules, and graphs. Graphing in the coordinate plane linear equations in two variables is a focus of the study of functions.

Standards of Learning for Grades 3-4-5

- 4.15 The student will recognize, create, and extend numerical and geometric patterns.
- 5.17 The student will describe the relationship found in a number pattern and express the relationship.
- 5.18 The student will
- a) investigate and describe the concept of variable;
 - b) write an open sentence to

Standards of Learning for Grades 6-7-8

- 6.17 The student will identify and extend geometric and arithmetic sequences.
- 7.2 The student will describe and represent arithmetic and geometric sequences, using variable expressions.
- 7.12 The student will represent relationships with tables, graphs, rules, and words.
- 7.13 The student will
- a) write verbal expressions as algebraic expressions and sentences as equations and vice versa; and
 - b) evaluate algebraic expressions for given replacement values of the variables.

represent a given mathematical relationship, using a variable;
d) create a problem situation based on a given open sentence, using a single variable.

8.17 The student will identify the domain, range, independent variable, or dependent variable in a given situation.

Process Goals

- Connections and Representations – Students will recognize and use mathematical connections to extend or generalize patterns. Students will use a variety of representations – graphical, numerical, algebraic, verbal, and physical - to record their findings and solve the problem.
- Communication – Students will justify their findings and present their results using precise mathematical language.

Related Task – Magic Vase

You're planting in the garden and uncover a vase buried in the soil. After cleaning the vase, you place it on your bedside table. You notice something shiny in the vase before you go to sleep. You pull out a handful of pennies and count them up. There are 6 pennies in the vase. When you check the vase at the end of the second day, you count 12 pennies. At the end of Day 3, you count 18 pennies. How many pennies will be in the vase after 10 days? 25 days? 100 days? Can you come up with a rule to find the number of pennies in the vase on any day?

Related Task – Magic Bag

You're cleaning out your closet and find a velvet bag in the corner. When you pick up the bag it feels heavy, and you find 24 pennies inside it. Before you go to sleep, you pull out the pennies and count them up again. Now there are 27 pennies in the bag! When you check the bag at the end of the second day, you count 30 pennies. At the end of Day 3, you count 33 pennies. How many pennies will be in the bag after 10 days? 25 days? 100 days? Can you come up with a rule to find the number of pennies in the bag on any day?

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Lesson Plan

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Materials

- The task
- Box (available to model task)
- Coins/counters (available for students)
- Calculators (for computation)
- cm grid paper (available for students)
- Newsprint (for groups to record rule)
- Poster paper (for recording class data table)
- Poster inch grid paper (for graphing class data)

Facilitating Task

- Read task and clarify as needed
- Give individual think time before sharing with a partner
- Small groups (3-5 students)
 - Compare and come to consensus on days 10, 15, 20
 - Record you rule on poster
- Whole group
 - Record class data in 3 column table for days 0-10, 15, 20
 - Record class data on graph for days 0-5
 - Share out rules and connect words to symbolic notation
 - Discuss connections between representations - story context, table, graphs, verbal rule, symbolic rule

Misconceptions

- Day 0 has 2 pennies (Day 0 has 0 pennies)

Suggested Prompts or Questions

- What patterns do you notice?
- What's the relationship between

- Day 3 has 6 pennies (Day 3 has 8 pennies)
- Students might have difficulty identifying the pattern that relates the day to the total number of pennies. While it will likely be easy for students to notice the pattern from one day to the next, this iterative pattern requires you to know the previous day, in order to determine the day you are on. This makes finding the total pennies for any day challenging.

the day and the number of pennies?

- How did you find the total number of pennies for day 3? What expression could you write to show this? ($2 \times 2 \times 2$ or 2^3)
- Is there a quicker way to figure it out?
- Can you figure out the total number of pennies on day 20 without doing every day?

Magic Box



Name _____

Date _____

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Answer the question using pictures, words, tables, graphs, and/or symbols.