

FIGURE THIS!

Math Challenges for Families



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS



Why Is Math Important For Our Students?

Today's students must master advanced skills in mathematics, science, and technology to stay on track for college and for promising careers. Mathematics teaches ways of thinking that are essential to work and civic life.

Students who take algebra and geometry go on to college at much higher rates than those who do not (83% vs. 36%).

Most four-year colleges require three to four years each of high school math and science for admission.

Almost 90 percent of all new jobs require math skills beyond the high school level.

Entry-level automobile workers must use advanced mathematics formulas to wire a car's electrical circuits.

Strong math skills are needed for understanding graphs, charts, and opinion polls in a newspaper, for calculating house and car payments, and for choosing a long-distance telephone service.

Mathematics In Today's World

In today's world, we are bombarded with data that must be absorbed, sorted, organized, and used to make decisions. The underpinnings of everyday life, such as making purchases, choosing insurance or health plans, and planning for retirement, all require mathematical competence. Business and industry need workers who can solve real-world problems, explain their thinking to others, identify and analyze trends in data, and use modern technology.

Recent data from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics reveal that more students must pursue mathematical and technical occupations. Employment projections to 2010 expect these occupations to add the most jobs and grow the fastest among the eight professional and related occupational subgroups (Hecker 2001). But will enough qualified workers be available to fill the projected 2 million positions? Sixty percent of all new jobs in the early twenty-first century will require skills that are possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce (National Commission on Mathematics and Science for the Twenty-first Century 2000). Whatever your child chooses to do in life, you can be certain that having a strong understanding of mathematics will open doors to a productive future.

Mastering challenging mathematics is not just a classroom skill — it's a life skill!

A graphic for 'Math @ Home' featuring a blue house icon with a chimney. Above the house are mathematical symbols: $8 + 5$, 123 , and x . To the right of the house, the text 'Math @Home' is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font.

Numbers in the News
See how many numbers from 1 to 100 your child can find in today's newspaper. Page numbers, dates, and store adds will be good places to start the search. But students will also find lots of numbers on the sports page and throughout the newspaper. Cut out the numbers and paste them in sequence on a sheet of paper. Which ones are missing?

© Copyright EducationWorld.com

Math @ Home provides simple activities and games that parents and students can do together at home to reinforce students' math skills.