

Math Sticks

Number of players: one

Materials required: one set of 18 pre-made math sticks

Math Sticks are a simple way to practice some mental math: sticks can be designed using some or all of the four functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), with money, using hours or units of time, or even using conversions between fractions and/or decimals. There are a series of 18 sticks in a set, each stick labelled on one side with a numeric answer and on the other with a different mathematical question or equation.

To play:

1. Spread out the sticks so that the numeric (answer side) is facing up. One of the sticks should be labelled “start.”
2. Pick up that stick to initiate play. Read the question on the reverse and then remove the stick from the play surface. Find the answer to that question, select the stick, and turn it over to reveal a new question.
3. The game continues with each new equation leading to a new stick, until the player reaches the final answer stick. On the opposite of that stick is the “finish” label.
4. Encourage players to try the sets more than once, to see if they are able to pick up speed as their mental math ability gets a workout!

Note: The game is self-correcting: if a player chooses an incorrect stick, he or she will be unable to ultimately complete the game, as there will come a point where there is a question remaining without the correct answer. Players will then have to backtrack to find out where they made the mistake.

The eight sets of Math Sticks included are all labelled with a colour mark on one side, so that the sticks don't end up in the wrong set. Note that the sticks with the “dots” or “circles” are easier to play than the sticks marked with “X.” There is one set of sticks that deals with adding and subtracting amounts of money under \$10.00.

Mental Math Sticks

Set #1:

START	10 more than 42
52	5 more than 8
13	10 more than 0
10	5 more than 12
17	10 more than 13
23	5 more than 95
100	Double 9
18	10 more than 6
16	Half of 10
5	5 more than 62
67	Double 12
24	Double 8, add 1
17	10 less than 90
80	3 less than 5
2	5 less than 50
45	1 less than 99
98	10 more than 5
15	FINISH!

Set #2:

START	15 more than 6
21	10 more than 35
45	7 less than 20
13	12 more than 7
19	6 less than 99
93	9 more than 38
47	Double 7
14	10 less than 100
90	12 more than 86
98	Double 14
28	8 more than 16
24	7 less than 67
60	9 less than 10
1	Double 15
30	17 more than 3
21	8 more than 7
15	Double 6, add 4
16	FINISH!

Set #3:

START	Double 9
18	3 more than 20
23	3 less than 60
57	4 less than 100
96	5 less than 50
45	Double 6
12	12 more than 24
36	7 more than 77
84	25 more than 50
75	9 less than 40
31	15 more than 50
65	6 more than 0
6	1 less than 30
29	2 less than 45
43	Double 25
50	9 less than 10
1	Double 50
100	FINISH!

Set #4:

START	50 more than 6
56	Double 9
18	5 more than 63
68	7 less than 41
34	Double 4
8	6 more than 17
23	Double 50, subtract 7
93	6 less than 50
44	2 less than 67
65	4 more than 1
5	6 more than 46
52	6 less than 30
24	11 less than 60
49	6 more than 7
13	6 more than 75
81	Double 15
30	9 less than 99
90	FINISH!

Set #5:

START	10 less than 50
40	16 more than 20
36	7 more than 63
70	8 less than 15
7	Double 23
46	8 less than 99
91	9 more than 23
32	Double 6, add 12
24	9 less than 61
52	3 more than 10
13	9 more than 12
21	3 less than 100
97	14 more than 52
66	7 more than 12
19	20 less than 93
73	8 less than 90
82	9 more than 17
26	FINISH!

Set #6:

START	Double 16
32	9 less than 60
51	4 less than 16
12	1 more than 78
79	6 more than 0
6	8 less than 25
17	Double 8, add 4
20	8 more than 51
59	6 more than 87
93	1 less than 63
62	6 more than 39
45	Double 42
84	Triple 9
27	Double 4
8	6 more than 94
100	9 less than 72
63	4 more than 93
97	FINISH!

Set #7:

START	0 less than 100
100	9 less than 71
62	7 more than 36
43	6 more than 1
7	3 less than 80
77	Double 15, add 6
36	6 less than 30
24	9 more than 75
84	Double 21
42	8 more than 81
99	Double 7
14	Double 25, add 2
52	6 less than 39
33	1 more than 55
56	6 less than 98
92	2 more than 71
73	6 less than 91
85	FINISH!

Set #8:

START	6 more than 5
11	4 less than 36
32	8 more than 87
95	Double 4
8	5 more than 61
66	Double 13
26	8 more than 75
83	Double 25, add 3
53	7 more than 74
81	Double 9
18	9 more than 91
100	6 less than 71
65	5 less than 49
44	3 more than 1
4	7 less than 80
73	5 more than 33
38	6 less than 33
27	FINISH!