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Real Life Math

Book 1

**Math activities
for Intermediate/Challenging
Level Students.**

**Exploring mathematical concepts in practical
everyday situations.**

Activities to suit Grade 5-7 students.

Written by David J. Cohen.

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Rationale

Mathematics is all around us. We use mathematical processes from the time we get up in the morning until right before we go to sleep. An understanding of mathematical concepts helps students to arrive at school on time, order their lunch, purchase a CD, go to the movies, hire a DVD, deposit money into a bank account, pay for an excursion and even watch a favorite TV program.

Students also learn that adults need a firm understanding of mathematics to help them complete everyday tasks such as purchasing a home, shopping at the supermarket, sailing a boat, flying a plane, putting gas in the car, cooking a meal, planning an overseas trip and paying the bills.

No matter where and even when people lived, mathematics has always helped solve everyday problems. The concept of mathematics wasn't invented by any one person or any one civilization, but discovered by many people over time. Famous mathematicians in history, such as Pythagoras, Galileo and Archimedes, have paved the way for people to understand the way mathematical concepts work.

Even today, people are still discovering new ways that mathematics can help us to understand the world and the universe in which we live.

Reluctant math students will benefit from the activities in this book as all activities are set in a real life context, allowing students to see the necessity for an understanding of mathematical skills in order to survive in the real world. Students will examine how mathematics is incorporated into their everyday "real life" world in a number of areas, such as using realistic examples that have great relevance for them.

Teachers' Notes

How to get the most from this book:

1. The initial activities in this book are designed to help students understand and appreciate the depth of math in their everyday world. "Making Connections" is a great activity to start opening children's eyes to the real world of math. The "Math Surveys" are an excellent homework activity, where children can engage their family in the application and practicality of real life math. The "Math in News" and "Math in Advertising" sections will help children read more into what they hear, read and see every day.

2. Each section contains a wide cross section of mathematical concepts for students to tackle and become immersed in. For example, this could include: **multiplication, adding, division, subtraction, rounding, analogue and digital clocks, graphing and interpreting data, identifying shapes, decimals, scales, location, maps, direction, working with temperatures, chance, graphing and interpreting data, area, estimation, prime numbers, identifying shapes, calendars and ordering.**

The concepts covered are listed at the beginning of each section. These activities and questions also lend themselves to further discussion about the practical application of math concepts.

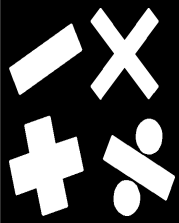
3. There are many "open-ended" questions throughout the book. Students attempting open-ended questions for the first time often get confused and think they don't have enough information to successfully answer the question. To help understand the nature of these questions, write a sample question on the board and invite children to list the information that they think is missing. Students will soon discover that "could" type questions can include several different answers and subsequently, they have all the information they need in order to answer the question. Practising with open-ended questions will soon tune their thinking into a more flexible and deeper approach in finding different solutions to the same problem.

4. The activities in this book can be issued as weekly assignments or as a catalyst for working cooperatively in small groups and with partners.

5. After completion of the set assignment/s, children are encouraged to complete the Reflections form found on page 37. The reflection form is a self-analysis sheet designed to help children better understand their own work processes.

6. Research has shown that marking and providing feedback is more effective if given immediately after activities are completed. Allow children to explain how they arrived at answers. Often, there is more than just one way to arrive at an answer, however some methods are more efficient than others. By allowing pupils to share their method of working, the class will be exposed to alternative ways of reaching an answer.

Making the Connections - 1



Background

Mathematics is the study of numbers and patterns. These patterns can be explained in sets of rules and then explored and examined by looking at the consequences of following those rules. People use mathematical concepts to solve problems and often use them without realizing.

“Math plays an important part in every person’s daily life. It’s not always immediately obvious, but math is everywhere you look and even everywhere you don’t look.”

Demonstrating Your Understanding

You often hear teachers and parents say math is all around us, but is this really true? Lets start with yourself. Think about your day and make a list of everything you have done that you think has involved the use of math. When you have finished, share your list with others. You might want to add other ideas to your list after sharing.

Morning (AM)

Afternoon and Evening (PM)

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