

Using MAB up to 120 introduction

Use the real classroom MAB set for this lesson. The demonstration resource is a pictorial reference only, for planning or for a child who needs a picture to check against — it is not a substitute for building with the real blocks.

1 One block for a hundred, one rod for a ten, one cube for a one

Show the three real MAB pieces: the small unit cube, the ten rod, and the hundred flat. Name each one. Use the real classroom set for this lesson, not a picture of one.

"This little cube is worth one. This rod is worth ten. This big flat is worth one hundred."

Build 34 using 3 ten rods and 4 unit cubes.

"Three rods and four cubes. Three tens and four ones — thirty-four."

Build 99 using 9 rods and 9 cubes, then ask what happens when one more is added.

"Nine rods and nine cubes is ninety-nine. What happens when I add one more cube?"

Show the trade: ten cubes and ten rods each swap for the next size up, making exactly one hundred flat.

"Ten cubes trade for a rod. Ten rods trade for a flat. That trade makes exactly one hundred."

Build 117 using 1 flat, 1 rod, and 7 cubes.

"One flat, one rod, seven cubes. One hundred, ten, and seven — one hundred and seventeen."

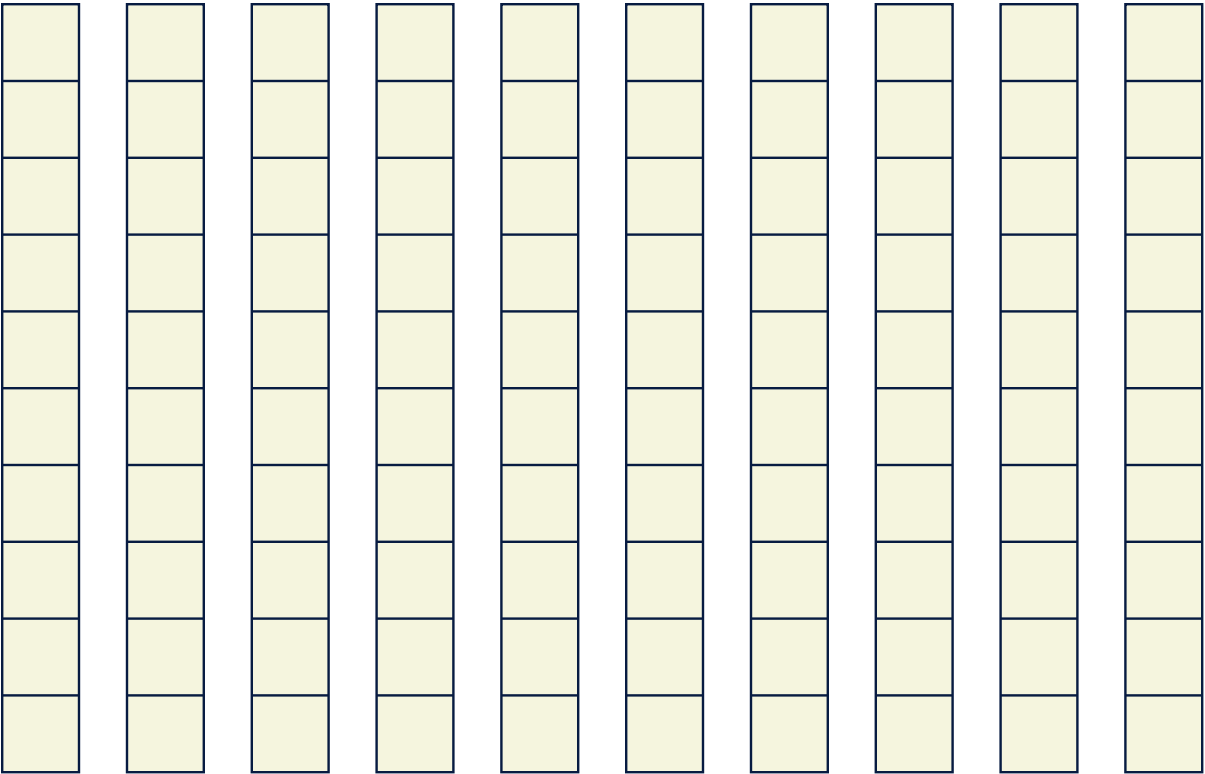
Show a common mistake: using cubes instead of a rod once there are ten or more. Check it: could any of these cubes be traded for a bigger piece?

"I built twenty-three using two rods and thirteen loose cubes. But ten of those cubes should have traded for another rod. Could any of these cubes be traded for something bigger?"

MAB pieces — demonstration

Flats — worth 100 each

Rods — worth 10 each



Cubes — worth 1 each

