

Addition on a number line activities



1 Jump to add at the class number line

A student marks the first number on the class number line and jumps forward by the second while the class counts the jumps aloud; they read the total where the jump lands.

"Start on the first number, jump on the second — count the jumps together. Where did we land?"

"Count the jumps, not the number we start on."

2 Write the equation

For each jump they make, students write the matching equation — first number, plus, second number, equals, where they landed.

"Say it and write it — three plus two equals five."

"Does your equation match your jumps on the line?"

3 Fewer jumps

Students try an addition both ways — one plus eight, then eight plus one — and notice that starting at the bigger number needs fewer jumps for the same landing.

"Try one plus eight both ways — which had fewer jumps?"

"Did the total change when you started from the bigger number?"

4 Non-example: counting the number you start on

Start on four to add three, but count "four, five, six" and land on six. Ask whether that was really three jumps.

"I started on four and counted four, five, six — three numbers. Did I jump three times?"

"Do not count the four you start on. Where should we really land?"

Addition on a number line — addition fact cards

Print on A4. Cut out. Draw a card, jump it on the class number line, and write the equation for where the jump lands.



$3 + 2$

$4 + 4$

$1 + 6$

$5 + 3$

$2 + 7$

$6 + 4$

$8 + 2$

$4 + 5$

$7 + 3$

$1 + 9$

$5 + 5$

$2 + 8$