

The names of the place values activities



1 Make a number with cards and blocks

Students drop a digit card into each place on the mat, then build the matching blocks — rods in the tens place, ones in the ones place — and read the number across the digits.

“Choose a digit for each place. Build the rods and ones to match. What number did you make?”

“Does the digit in the tens place match the number of rods?”

2 Make lots more

Students swap the digit cards to make new numbers and build each one — include a decade number (a zero in the ones place) and a single digit (nothing in the tens place).

“Swap a card — make a new number and build it. How did the blocks change?”

“Try a zero in the ones place. Try a single digit — what goes in the tens place?”

3 Which place is this digit in?

Point to a digit on a mat. Students name the place it is in and the blocks that sit below it.

“This digit — which place is it in? What blocks sit under it?”

“How do you know it is the tens place and not the ones place?”

4 Non-example: naming by size, not position

Make the number twenty-seven and claim the seven is in the tens place because it is the bigger digit. Students check on the mat — the seven ones sit in the ones place.

“The seven is bigger, so it is the tens? Look at the mat — which place do the seven ones sit in?”

“The place depends on position, not size — which place is the seven in?”

The names of the place values — place-value mat



place the digit card

place the digit card

place your rods here

place your ones here

tens

ones

The names of the place values — digit cards 0–9



0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9