Choosing Methods

Maths | Year 6 | Lesson 2 of 5

Learning Objective	Resources
To be able to choose a method for solving addition and subtraction problems, including mental methods.	Slides Thinking of a Number Cards A/B/C Number Cards A/B/C Problem Cards A/B/C (FSD? activity only)

Teaching Input

- Show children the addition problem on the slide. How many different methods could we use to solve it?
- Show the children the suggested methods then challenge them to find the answer using the most appropriate method.
- Share the answer with the children and go through the vertical column addition method. Did they solve it using this method? Why? Repeat this with the addition question on the next slide.
- Show the children the six addition questions on the slide. Give them time to solve each question with a partner. Encourage them to think about whether they can solve the problem mentally, or whether they need to use a written method, like column addition or rounding and adjusting.
- Go through the answers and explanations on the slide. Do they agree with the methods that were chosen? Why?
- Repeat this for the subtraction problems. Again, children to share and discuss which methods they used and which are most effective.

Main Activity

Lower ability:	Middle ability:	Higher ability:
Provide the children with the Thinking of a Number Cards A. Working on their own or in small groups they will work out what each number is. They will need to decide the best method to solve each problem. Then give the children Number Cards A and the Instruction Card. In groups or pairs they will pick a number to create their own 'I am thinking of a number' questions to solve.	Provide the children with the Thinking of a Number Cards B. Working on their own or in small groups they will work out what each number is. They will need to decide the best method to solve each problem. Then give the children Number Cards B and the Instruction Card. In groups or pairs they will pick a number to create their own 'I am thinking of a number' questions to solve.	Provide the children with the Thinking of a Number Cards C. Working on their own or in small groups they will work out what each number is. They will need to decide the best method to solve each problem. Then give the children Number Cards C and the Instruction Card. In groups or pairs they will pick a number to create their own 'I am thinking of a number' questions to solve.

Fancy something different...?

- Split the class into small groups and give each group a set of the Problem Cards A/B/C, depending on ability. The cards are split into sets of problems. Sets one to three state the method the children should use to find the answer. For set four the children will need to select the most appropriate method.
- You may wish to provide a timer for each group so they can see how quickly they can answer each set of questions correctly. Alternatively you can challenge them to see how many questions from each set they can answer correctly in a set amount of time.

Plenary	Assessment Questions
Challenge: how could you add all the whole numbers from 1 to 100? How long do you think this would take you? Is there a method you could use? Give children some time to think about this, then tell them the story of Gauss and how he worked this out in seconds as a young boy.	- Can children add or subtract numbers mentally? - Can children add or subtract numbers using the column method? - Can children choose an appropriate method for solving addition and subtraction problems?

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