

MATH: Arranging Numbers (K)

Learning Goals:

- Numbers represent quantities that can be decomposed into smaller parts.
- Visualize to explore mathematical concepts

Materials

Paper (construction paper or plain white paper)

Small objects (pasta noodles, paper clips, toothpicks, etc)

Pencil

White liquid school glue

Activity

Number arrangement activities help students to internalize number combinations. It's perfect for those first few afternoons back at school when everyone is Recognizing, Arranging, Decomposing and composing numbers to 20 Partitioning, comparing and ordering numbers to 100 Partitioning, comparing and ordering numbers to 1000 Comparing and ordering fractions (fractions with common denominators; benchmarks)

Here's how it works:



1. Students divide a piece of construction paper into 8 parts (fold in half, then in half again, then in half one more time).
2. Choose something to make arrangements with (I'm using noodles here but you could use strips of paper, toothpicks, foam tiles, etc.)
3. Tell students the number they are working with for the day. In the picture I'm using the number 5. In every rectangle there have to be exactly 5 noodles.
4. Students arrange and glue down their materials.
5. Students write an equation to represent each arrangement.

This is a great introduction to the idea of subitizing if students haven't ever done it before. I like to do the activity a few times using different materials and a different focus number each time. This can also become a math center.