

Got eggs?



DAVID CHEN

If you have eggs, you have egg cartons, and they can be used in myriad ways in your classroom.

Pre-K–Grade 1

Use the egg cartons to sort objects by attributes or to help students connect number and numeral. Write the counting numbers 1–12 consecutively in the cups and have children place the appropriate number of small items in each.

Grades 1–3

Because 12 is divisible by 2, 3, 4, and 6, egg cartons are terrific for representing, comparing, and operating with fractions. How many eggs are in a half-dozen? Which is greater, $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$? What is the result of adding $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$?

Grades 3–6

Include cartons with 18 cups. Propose fraction multiplication problems, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ of $\frac{2}{3}$, or $\frac{2}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{6}$.

Modify the game

- Use values other than 1–12.
- Put in three blocks (or more), two of one color and one of another. On each turn, the player adds the two numbers with the same color and multiplies by the third. The first player to exceed 100 points wins.
- For young mathematicians, assign a different colored block to each player. The person whose marker lands on the greater value gets a point. The first player to accumulate 10 points wins.

Egg carton addition

Number the cups from 1 to 12 but in no particular order. Place two small blocks in the carton, close it, and shake it. Find the sum of the numbers where the blocks landed. Each player keeps a running sum; the game ends after five turns each.

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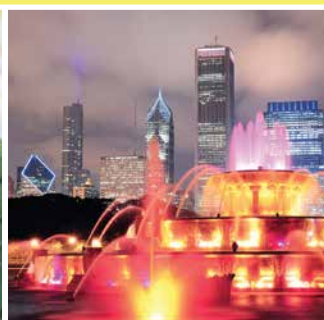
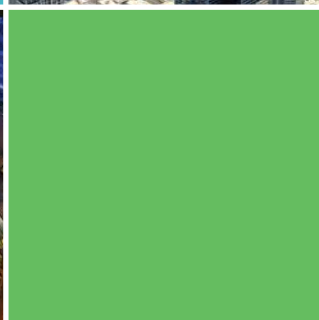
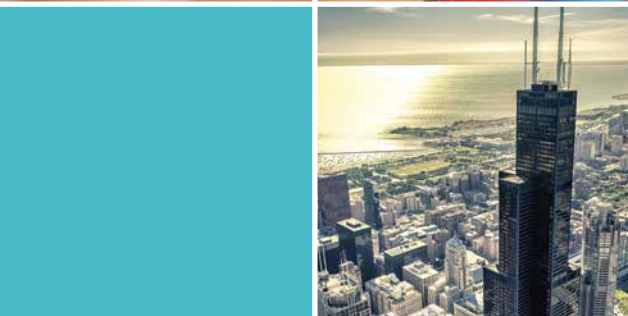
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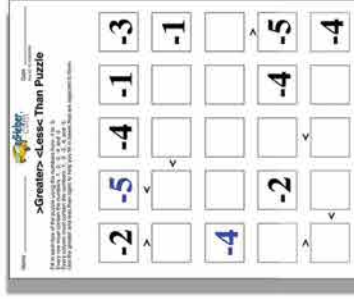


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