

Snap It

Snap It is an activity that focuses on part-whole relationships. As students decompose numbers they consider the whole number and then they have to consider two other parts that are inside the number. Kathy Richardson and Chris Confer both describe Snap It as an activity that builds the part-whole concept.

Materials:

Unifix cubes or snap cubes--10 per student

Snap It--Show It

1. Ask students to each make a cube train using a specific number of cubes.
2. Say, "One, two, three...Snap?" and have students break the train into two parts.
3. Students take turns showing first one train piece and then the other. The children name the number cubes in each part--for example, "two and seven."
4. Using the same trains, students continue playing, snapping their trains in different ways.

Snap It, Hide It

1. Have students sit in a small group. Ask students to each make a cube train using a specific number of cubes.
2. They are going to take turns snapping their train. The student who snaps the train will then place one part on the table and hide the other part behind his or her back. The other students in the group tell what they think is behind the student's back.
3. The student then shows the hidden part.
4. Extension: Students write the equation that describes how the cube train was broken.

Snap It Different Ways

1. Ask students to each make a cube train using a specific number of cubes.
2. Have students investigate and record all the different ways that a cube train could be snapped in two parts.
3. Students record on paper.