

Times and divide investigation.

Print out the following pages and cut them up into individual numbers. If you laminate them first they will last for many uses. The different colours indicate the different sets of numbers and symbols. The blue, mauve and turquoise sets have extension numbers too for the higher ability children. These are printed at the end.

The children should work in twos or threes. Give each pair/three a set of numbers and symbols.

The challenge - how many different *correct* number sentences can they make using the numbers and symbols provided? They should write them down swiftly as they make them on mini-whiteboards.

Alternatively - give out initially the sets with the divide sign taken out. Half way through the activity swap the times sign for the divide sign - good for assessing whether the children understand about inverse operation.

I used this as a lesson starter in an observed lesson, and it was called a 'very good' starter because everyone was busy and engaged, and I could move around the carpet area observing and assessing.

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