

DISCOVERY WALL™ MATH ACTIVITY: “PLACE VALUE PLACEMENT”

STUDENTS TRAVERSE THE WALL WHILE PLACING DIGITS IN THEIR CORRECT “PLACE” TO CREATE CERTAIN NUMBERS.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

Colored chalk (teacher only)

Set of magnetic numbers

Three bins

Note cards labeled as described below, one for each climber



PRIOR TO CLASS:

Determine what place value you wish to review. With colored chalk, draw a thick line to divide the climbing wall vertically into sections equal to that number of places. For example, if you are reviewing thousands to thousandths, you will need to divide the wall into seven sections, remembering to make a large decimal point at the top of the wall. Ideally, each section should be a few feet wide. You could also write the name of each place at the top of the wall. Next, label index cards (one per student) with a variety of numbers within your place value range. Finally, divide your magnetic numbers into three bins, labeled 0-2, 3-5, 6-9, and position them away from the Discovery Wall™.



THE ACTIVITY:

Divide the class into partners. Explain that each partnership will be given a note card with a number written on it. Their job is to “create” this number on the Discovery Wall™. After they get their card, students should practice saying the number. Then they can go to the number bins and get magnetic numbers to match each digit on their card.

Partners should line up at the start of the climbing wall and decide who will climb first. The climber’s job is to place the digits in their correct place on the wall, while his/her partner holds the card and numbers. The partner hands the numbers to his/her partner on demand and offers assistance, if needed. Once the end of the wall is reached, the partners return the card to you, get a new card, new numbers and switch roles.



AFTER THE ACTIVITY:

After everyone has climbed once, have the whole class sit down in front of the wall and ask students to recite numbers they see. They could be numbers they created or different numbers. Have them say the number aloud and then point out each digit on the wall.



VARIATION:

At the end of the activity, as a whole group, you could add, subtract and/or round some of the numbers on a black area of Discovery Wall™.