

# The number worm



## Setting the context

When the tide goes out, a beach is often covered with curly worm-casts. As the worms burrow into the sand they eat it, taking what nourishment they can from it and letting the rest pass right the way through – hence the wormy shapes left on the surface. A number worm does exactly the same thing except that it eats numbers, but only certain numbers. Number worms are taking over the beach and are making it difficult for

holidaymakers to enjoy their time at the seaside. Some number worms are worse than others and it is your job to find these, dig them up and take them to another beach.

## The challenge

How many problem number worms can you find? Work in teams of three with a spotter, a tester and an examiner. You will only catch the worms if you cooperate.

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## Objectives

To learn to work cooperatively in a team of three, within a specific role.

To explore basic number operations.

To evaluate group performance and set targets for improvement.

## You will need

An image or video clip of worm-casts – perhaps even real worms; copies of photocopiable page 58; a name badge or label for each child depending on whether they are a spotter (chooses the worms), a tester (puts the numbers into the worms), or an examiner (looks at the casts).

## Preparation

Decide how you are going to describe the creation of worm-casts to the children and prepare the necessary materials. Prepare a number worm sheet to suit the mathematical abilities of your learners; use the sheet as supplied or make copies of the final row and then add in your own text. Prepare the role badges. Make copies

of the 'Levels of success' chart for the children to refer to at the end of the activity.

## What to do

● Present the idea of worm-casts to the children and explain that a number worm

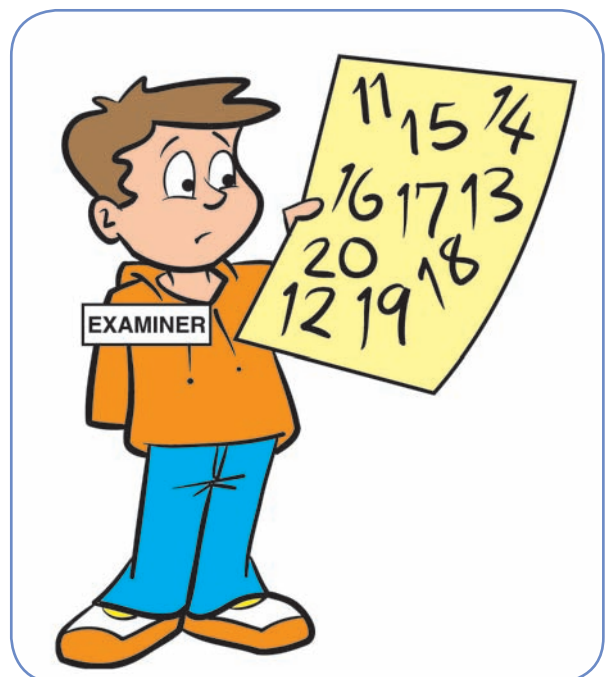


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