
Number Stories at the Brentsville Schoolhouse



Reporting Category: Computation and Estimation

Topic: Solving single-step story & picture problems using basic addition and subtraction

Primary SOLs: K.6; 1.6; 2.5

Related SOLs: 1.7; 2.6

Materials: Interactive Video; Number Story Worksheet (attached)

Directions:

- Students will watch and educational video illustrating the following concepts:
 - o The difference between school 100 years ago to schools today.
 - o Subjects taught in school (focusing on math).
 - o Video will tie into the worksheet that students will have to complete as part of their lesson.
- Complete Worksheet

Context:

The Differences of Brentsville Schoolhouse and Your School

The white schoolhouse at Brentsville was built in 1928. The first teacher in this new schoolhouse was Lucy Mae Motley. Her job was not only to educate the children of Brentsville, but to also act as caretaker for the schoolhouse. Everything from lesson plans to custodial work fell onto her shoulders.

The average attendance varied, but most of the time, 25 students attended school. During the 1930s, "...first through fifth grades were housed at Brentsville. The sixth graders were bused to different schools throughout western Prince William County.

Schools in the 1930s/1940s were different than they are today. The schoolhouse had no running water or electricity. The schoolhouse had a coal and wood burning stove to heat the room and used natural light from the five windows to light the building. Prior to World War II, the fires were lit in the morning by James "Cookie" Wolfe, a student of the school. According to his brother, "Freddy", and sister, Gladys, he was paid by the teacher for his help

during the colder months of the school year. Students all had their own cups but drank from the same bucket of water and used the outhouse for the bathroom.

Just as today, students looked forward to their two fifteen-minute recesses; one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Lunchtime is also another favorite, but compared with school lunches today, much is different. Lunchtime for the Brentsville School students lasted an hour, with most bringing something from home. Students lucky enough to live close by or have friends near, were able to go home for a hot meal during their lunch. During the chilly days of winter, many of the student's mothers sometimes brought in soup and heated it on the stove in the classroom giving students a hot meal.

Brentsville School remained open until the end of the 1943-1944 school year. A community and recreation center, private residence, arcade, and office were all part of its changing past, until in October of 2012, the building was formally restored to its 1928 architectural appearance.

Math at the Brentsville Schoolhouse

Math or "arithmetic" was one of the daily subjects taught at the Brentsville School and it can be seen everywhere in the schoolhouse today. From counting the number of desks and windows in the schoolhouse, to studying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and distance, math has been taught for hundreds of years and is important for students to learn today.

A math textbook called "Modern-School Arithmetic" used in the 1930s and 40s talked about the importance of learning math:

In their home, recreational, and school life we observe, children finding many uses for number in their daily activities. [Math] becomes essential to the child for satisfying participation in such activities as keeping weekly milk bills and school-supply bills, keeping daily temperature records...cooking, sewing, pottery making, reading music, managing and depositing in the school bank, keeping the height and weigh charts, financing and timing trips and excursions, measuring water for the goldfish bowl, keeping score in games, financing and sharing the cost of a club party, making lemonade and popcorn balls, timing the activities of the day, and using accurate measurements in art, science, and other work.

To practice your math skills, let's try some math problems taken from the "Modern-School Arithmetic".

Exercise: (See attached)

Name: _____



Number Story Math

Read the stories below and solve the problem using addition and subtraction.

1. Every day, Ms. Woodhouse has 1 apple on her desk. One morning, 4 students gave her apples. How many apples did she have on her desk?

$$\text{1 apple} + \text{4 apples} =$$

4. 10 students go to the Brentsville School, but today 3 of them are home sick. How many students are at school today?

$$\text{10 students} - \text{3 students} =$$

2. Freddie has 6 extra pencils in his desk, but gave 2 to his friends. How many pencils does Freddie have?

$$\text{6 pencils} - \text{2 pencils} =$$

5. Harry drew this picture in class where hand has 5 balloons and the other hand balloons. How many balloons are in the drawing?



3. During playtime, Charles and Betty are playing ring toss. Betty has 3 rings and Charles has 5. How many rings do they both have?

$$\text{3 rings} + \text{5 rings} =$$

6. Jean has 4 paper dolls and gave 2 to her friend Sally to play with. How many paper dolls does Jean have left?

$$\text{4 paper dolls} - \text{2 paper dolls} =$$

