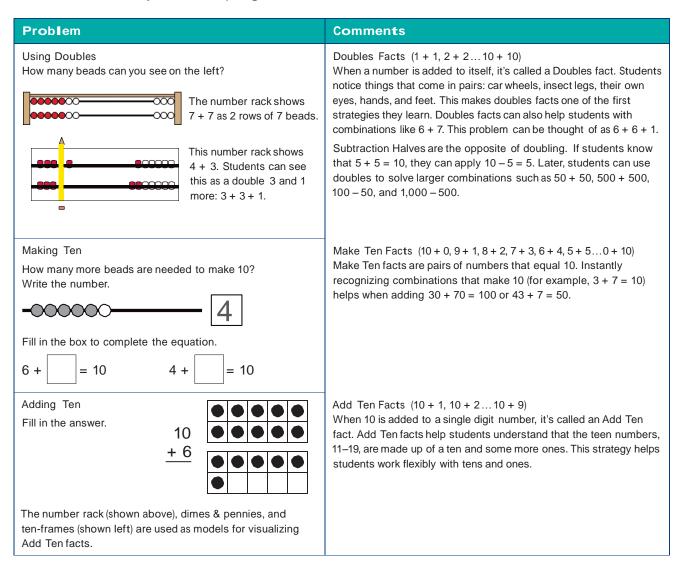
Fairfield Mathematics Grade 1

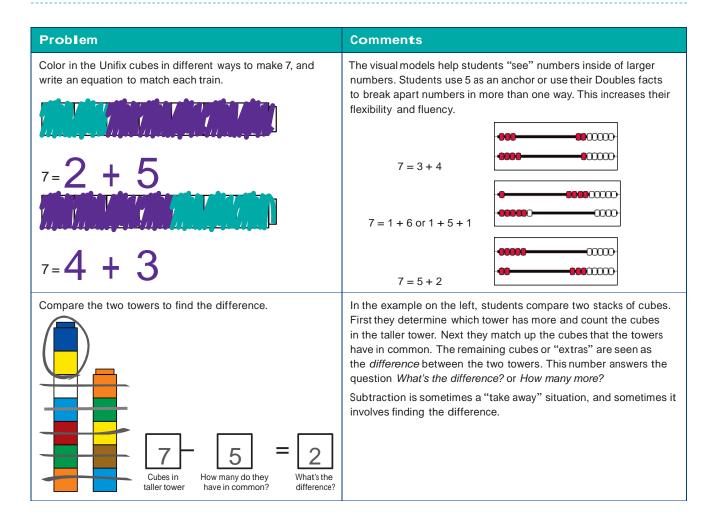
Unit 3: Early Addition and Subtraction

In this unit your child will

- Practice efficient math strategies to add and subtract within 10 and 20
- Build an understanding of equivalence
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems with pictures, numbers, and words

Your child will solve problems like those shown below. Keep this sheet for reference when you're helping with homework.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNIT 3

Q: Why are students spending time learning strategies? Why not just memorize the addition and subtraction facts?

A: First grade students are expected to use strategies for addition up to 10 and subtraction from 10. Grade 1 math instruction develops students' fluency with math facts by equipping them with strategies that give them a solid understanding of addition and subtraction. The program provides multiple opportunities to practice basic facts. Visual models like the number rack, ten-frames, and cubes help your child create a visual picture of the quantity they "see" in their mind's eye. These strategies enhance number sense, so your child can work flexibly and accurately as a problem solver.

Q: My child is using fingers to solve the problems. Is this OK?

A: Fingers are one of the best visual models for helping students understand numbers between 1 and 10. Students use finger patterns to link quantity to numbers and to understand that numbers can be made in different ways. For example, the number 7 can be shown as 5 fingers on one hand and 2 on the other, or 4 on one hand and 3 on the other.









Fingers act as objects to count, just as cubes or beads do, when adding and subtracting. Students begin by counting their fingers by 1s. Soon they can display quantities quickly—just by popping up their fingers without much thought. As children learn other strategies and commit facts to memory, they become confident in their answers, and their reliance on fingers diminishes.