## Teaching with

## Math Card Games


based on the work of Dr. Joan A. Cotter


1


3

## Games

$\frac{\text { Games }}{\text { Math }}=\frac{\text { Books }}{\text { Reading }}$

Games provide instant feedback.
Games provide interesting repetition needed for automatic responses in a social setting.
More importantly, games provide an application for the new information!


2

## Rote Memorization

Memorizing 390 math facts is daunting.
Sadly, whatever is learned by rote needs frequent review to stay learned.

4

## Go to the Dump

Objective: To learn and master the facts of 10 .

Number of Players: 2 to 4 .
Cards: Basic number cards from 1 to 9 .
Goal: To collect the most pairs.


7


9

## Go to the Dump with Elevens

Objective: To learn and master the facts of 11 .

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1+10 \\
& 2+9 \\
& 3+8 \\
& 4+7 \\
& 5+6
\end{aligned}
$$

Play: Same as Go to the Dump.


8

## Go to the Dump

Game app for your devices!


Go to Ten

10

## Go to the Dump with Nines

Objective: To learn and master the facts of 9 .

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1+8 \\
& 2+7 \\
& 3+6 \\
& 4+5
\end{aligned}
$$

Note: Make sure that the facts of 10 are solid before playing these variations.

12

## Short Chain Solitaire

Objective: To provide reinforcement of addition facts.
Goal: To build the following four chains:

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

13

## Short Chain Solitaire

A chain is composed of links.
Each link (after the first two) is formed by adding the previous two numbers, while disregarding any 1 s in the tens place.

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

15

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| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

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| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
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14

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

16

## Short Chain Solitaire

A chain is composed of links.
Each link (after the first two) is formed by adding the previous two numbers, while disregarding any 1 s in the tens place.

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

18

## Short Chain Solitaire

A chain is composed of links
Each link (after the first two) is formed by adding the previous two numbers, while disregarding any 1 s in the tens place.

There are some interesting patterns.

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

19

## Short Chain Solitaire

Objective: To provide reinforcement of addition facts.

Goal: To build the four chains.
Cards: 36 specific cards.
Layout: Lay cards in fans of three.

21


23

## Short Chain Solitaire

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Each link (after the first two) is formed by adding the previous two numbers, while disregarding any 1 s in the tens place.
There are some interesting patterns.

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

20


22


24


25

## Short Chain Solitaire

- Cannot be won if an error is made.
- Using some strategy, a player can win about three-fourths of the time. Several players can work together to win.
- Best of all, these Chain Solitaire games provide hours of fun!
- Nine variations available.
- 97 of the 100 addition facts are used. Only $0+0,5+0$, and $5+5$ are omitted.

27

## Short Chain Subtraction

Each link (after the first two) is formed by subtracting the previous two numbers, while assuming the 1 in the tens place is present when needed.

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

## Short Chain Solitaire



26

## Short Chain Subtraction

Objective: To practice subtraction facts.
Goal: To build the following four chains:

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

28

## Short Chain Subtraction

Each link (after the first two) is formed by subtracting the previous two numbers, while assuming the 1 in the tens place is present when needed.

| 11 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

30

## Short Chain Subtraction

Each link (after the first two) is formed by subtracting the previous two numbers, while assuming the 1 in the tens place is present when needed.

| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

Short Multiplication Chart


33

## Short Multiplication Chart



## Short Chain Subtraction



32

Short Multiplication Chart


34

## Short Multiplication Chart



36


37


39


## Ring Around the Products

Objective: To review the multiplication facts.
Number of Players: Two to four.
Cards: Multiplication cards and a deck of basic number cards without the 0s.

Goal: To collect the most multiplication cards.

38


40

## Ring Around the Products

It is multiplication practice.
Can also be viewed as division practice.

42

## Ring Around the Products



43

## Division War

Note: Division is more than the inverse of multiplication. The quick recognition of division facts is not sufficient.

When dividing by 6 , you need to recognize that 48 , as well as $49,50,51,52$, and 53 will give 8 as the quotient, however, all but 48 have a remainder.

45


47

## Division War

Objective: To practice finding quotients quickly.
Number of Players: Two.
Cards: About 40 multiplication cards and an equal number of basic cards without the 0 s .

Goal: To collect the most cards.

44


46


48



55


57


59

## Partial Chart



56

Fraction War
Objective: To practice comparing fractions from the 1 s , halves, fourths, and eighths.
Cards: 1 s , halves, fourths, and eighths.
Number of players: Two.
Goal: To capture all the cards.

58


60


61

## Fraction War Variation

Addition -
each player lays down two cards, adds them, the greater sum takes the cards
Subtraction -
subtract two card and greater difference takes all four cards

Multiplication or Division multiply or divide two cards and greater product or quotient takes the cards

## Fraction War

App for your devices!


Fraction War

62

## In Conclusion ...

- Games provide instant feedback.
- Games provide interesting repetition needed for automatic responses in a social setting.
- More importantly, games provide an application for the new information!


## In Conclusion ...

Our goal as a teacher of mathematics is to help our children transform, expand, and refine these beginning ideas into deeper mathematical thinking.

- Dr. Joan A. Cotter

