

Count Down

A game for the whole class.

Each student will require a set of numbered cards 2 - 9 large enough to be seen by the teacher at a distance.

The teacher calls out a question similar to ones below. The teacher then begins the count down. Initially the teacher might count down from five, but once the students have developed fluency reduce the count to “3, 2, 1”. Before the count is complete the students must hold up the appropriate number card.

For example, the question might be:

- How many threes in twenty-one? (Students hold up card showing 7.)
- What is twenty-one divided by three? (7)
- Hold up a number that is a factor of twenty-one. (Students might hold up 7 or 3)
- Hold up two numbers that are factors of twenty-one. (7 and 3)
- Hold up a number that divides exactly into twenty-one. (7 or 3)
- What number do I multiply 3 by to get 21? (7)
- What number do I divide 21 by to get 7? (3)
- What is twenty-one divided by three? (7)
- What is $\frac{1}{3}$ of twenty-one? (7)

Substitute appropriate numbers into these questions to develop your own question for different families of facts.

Notice how these questions emphasize fact families and the link between multiplication and division.

If some students feel pressured by the count down aspect of this game, change the name to “Hold Up” and subtly increase the speed of response required.