

Race to the Tree

By Top Ten Mathematics



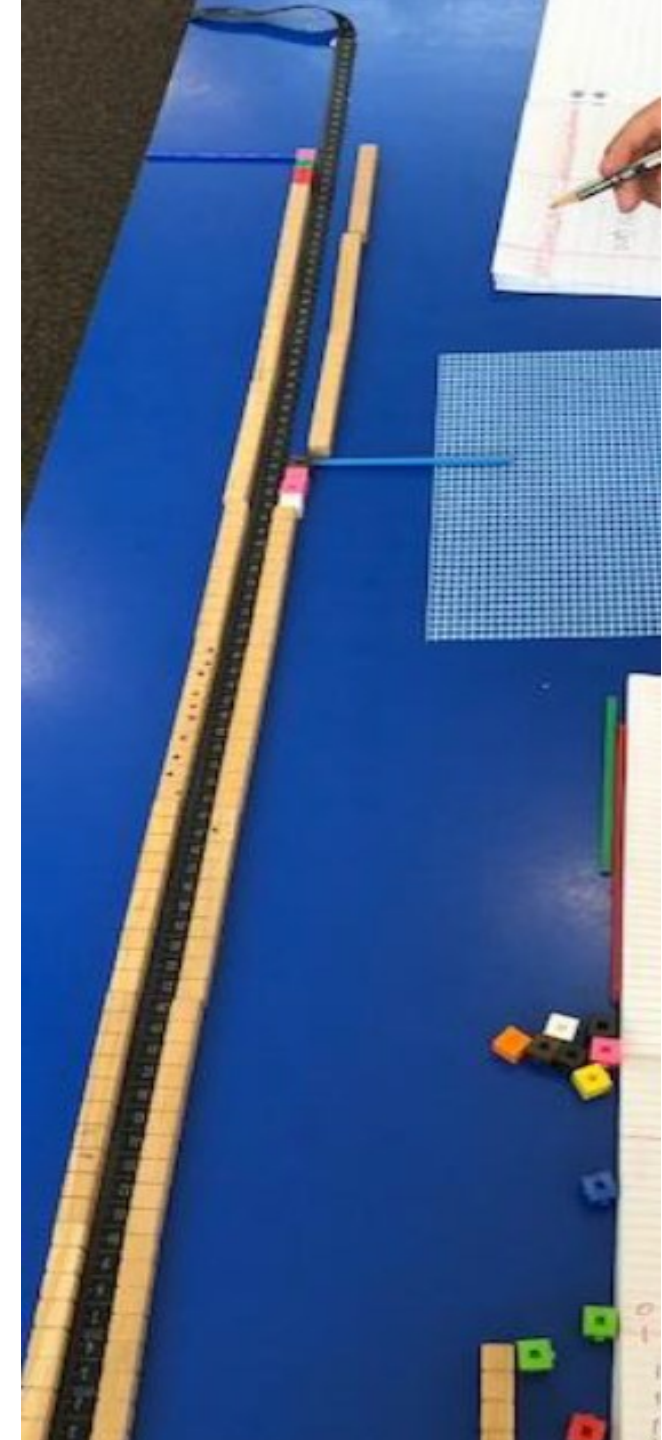
Year 1/2, or Year 3 with extending prompts in play:

1. Play in pairs. Stick a 150cm measuring tape to the desk with Blu Tack.
2. Place a Christmas tree token at the 150cm mark. The first to reach the tree, wins!
3. Scrunch up 5 present tokens and 5 candy cane tokens. Place these in a hat.
4. For each turn, pull 3 scrunched up tokens from your hat. A present is worth ten. A candy cane is worth one.
5. Work out your new position mentally, recording how you did it (no vertical algorithms allowed – must be a mental jump, split, switch or another efficient mental strategy).
6. Then move forward by that amount, along the measuring tape, placing down tens and ones blocks (place value blocks) along the tape, to check your mental answer.

Extension 1: Mentally work out how many to go until you reach the finish line. At first, race to 100 (rather than 150) to work on complements of 100. Beware the common 110 misconception (students often think $65 + 45$ is 100, rather than $65 + 35$).

Extension 2: Work out the difference between your and your partner's position each turn.

Extension 3: Work out the average of your and your partner's position each turn.





One of our intensive member schools – OLHC in Warrnambool, playing race to 150 with place value blocks in pairs following a Top Ten Mathematics PL.