Place value

MAB blocks

Our number system is based on multiples of 10. We teach children to recognise the value, or place value, of numbers using this system.

Children use wooden blocks to see the values in numbers. The blocks are given different values depending on the purpose. They can be used to show whole numbers or fractions.

Showing whole numbers

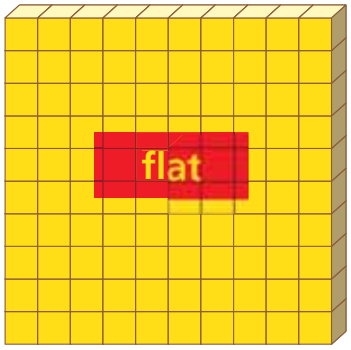
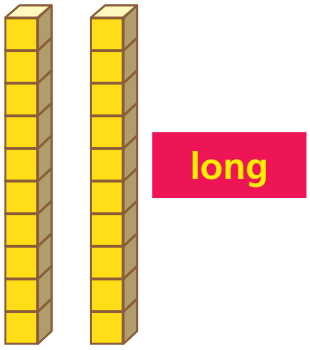
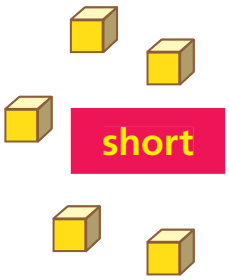
1 short = one (1)

1 long = 1 ten (10)

1 flat = 1 hundred (100)

1 block = 1 thousand (1000)

So 125 would be shown on this chart as:

Hundreds	Tens	Ones
		
1	2	5

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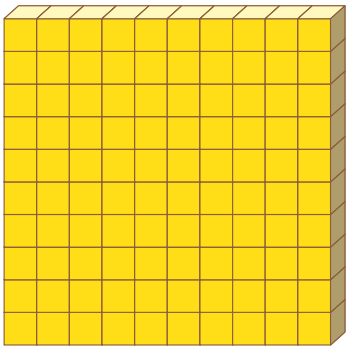
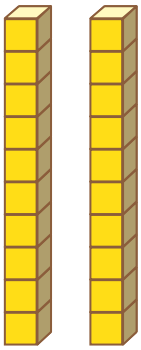
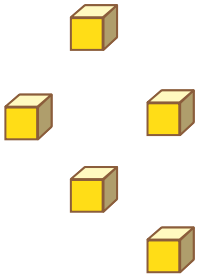
Showing fractions

1 flat = one (1)

1 long = 1 tenth (1/10)

1 short = 1 hundredth (1/100)

So 1.25 would be shown on this chart as:

Ones	Tenths	Hundredths
		
1	2	5

decimal point

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