## Bridges in Mathematics Grade 2

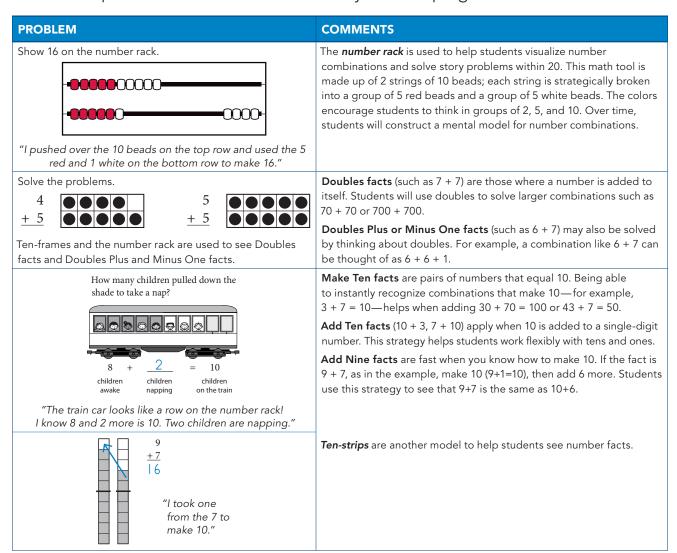
## **Unit 1: Figure the Facts**

In this unit your child will:

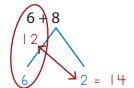
- Practice efficient math strategies to add and subtract within 20
- Explore even and odd numbers
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems
- Count by 2s, 5s, and 10s to solve problems



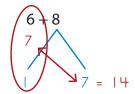
Your child will learn and practice these skills by solving problems like those shown below. Keep this sheet for reference when you're helping with homework.



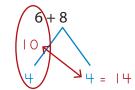
**Leftover facts** (7 + 4, 7 + 5, 8 + 4, 8 + 5, and 8 + 6) can be solved in a variety of ways:



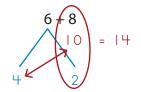
"I know that 6 + 6 is 12, so I took 6 from the 8 and that left 2. 6 + 6 is 12 and 2 more is 14."



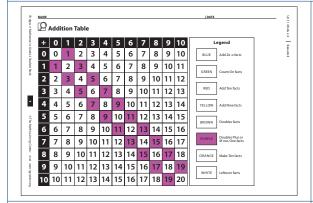
"I used doubles also, but I made 7 + 7 by taking 1 from the 8 and giving it to the 6. 6 + 1 is 7 and 8 – 1 is 7."



"I broke the 8 into 4 and 4, because I know that 6 and 4 make 10. Then I added the 4 to the 10 and got 14."



"You can make 10 another way by taking 2 from the 6 and adding it to the 8. Then you have 8 + 2 = 10, and 10 + 4 = 14."



The Addition Table shows all the facts from 0+0 to 10+10. Students color in the eight fact strategies they have discovered. They also explore patterns and relationships among these facts, to commit them to memory.

At left, the Doubles Plus or Minus One facts have been colored in.



How many eyes?

"I added 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 8."

Counting patterns help students see relationships and structure among numbers, calculate fluently, and instantly recall number facts. Second graders use these patterns to skip-count and get ready to multiply. To solve the frog eyes problem shown, some students may double the eyes  $(2+2+2+2=8 \text{ or } 4\times 2=8)$  while others count the 4 groups of 2 eyes by 2s (2,4,6,8).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNIT 1

Q: Why do some of these activities look like what my child did in first grade?

**A:** This unit reviews mathematical concepts while introducing and establishing routines that will be used during second grade. This review helps teachers assess students' skill level and plan future lessons in the days and months to come. Time spent on learning expectations and procedures is essential to ensuring a cooperative community of learners where students work together to build mathematical concepts.

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

**A:** Second grade students are expected to use strategies to fluently add and subtract within 20. Bridges develops fluency with strategies to assure a solid understanding of addition and subtraction and provides multiple opportunities to practice basic facts. Visual models like the number rack allow your child to recall a visual picture of the quantity when needed. Students who recall facts from memory are, in many cases, performing calculations based on the strategies explained above. These strategies enhance number sense and carry over to working with larger numbers, so your child can work flexibly and accurately as a problem solver.

Q: How can I help my child and make homework a successful experience?

A: Homework assignments are sent home 2–3 times a week during the school year. Plan on your child spending 15–20 minutes on each. When an assignment is challenging, consider doing it in parts with a break in between. Even though your child is doing similar activities in class, she may need your help at home. Take time to ask her to explain the assignment to you. If your child can describe the task clearly and confidently, she can probably complete the assignment independently. Make yourself available, but assist only when necessary. Review the completed assignment. Ask your child to explain her thinking about some of the problems, give encouragement, and show interest in the work to build her confidence as a mathematician.