

# MULTIPLICATIVE THINKING

A Professional Development  
Seminar

presented by

Professor Dianne Siemon  
RMIT University

## OVERVIEW:



- A new focus
- From additive to multiplicative thinking: key concepts and strategies
- Concepts for multiplication and division
- Mental strategies
- Extending multiplication and division

## A NEW FOCUS

One of the main aims of school mathematics is to create **mental objects** in the mind's eye of children which can be manipulated flexibly with understanding and confidence.

A prolonged reliance on inefficient strategies such as 'make-all-count-all' is both developmentally dangerous and professionally irresponsible.

Dianne Siemon, 2000



## Introducing operation ideas:

Before children come to school they usually know what it means to:

- get more (addition – join and combine);
- have something taken-away, to have less than (subtraction – take-away, missing addend, and difference); and
- share equally (division – partition).

However, making and counting equal groups is not a natural part of their everyday experience.

## Preparing for multiplication:

Establish the value of equal groups through:

- sharing collections; and
- exploring more efficient strategies for counting large collections.

Explore concepts through **action stories** that involve naturally occurring 'equal groups' (e.g., the number of wheels on 3 toy cars, the number of fingers in the room) and situations that arise in stories from Children's Literature, eg, *Counting on Frank*, *The Doorbell Rang*, *One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab* ...

## Multiplicative Thinking:

Multiplicative thinking is characterised by:

- A capacity to work flexibly and efficiently with an **extended range of numbers** (e.g., larger whole numbers, decimals, common fractions, ratio, & percent);
- An ability to **recognise and solve a range of problems** involving multiplication and/or division including direct and indirect proportion; and
- The **means to communicate** this effectively in a variety of ways (e.g., words, diagrams, symbolic expressions, and written algorithms).

In short, multiplicative thinking is indicated by a capacity to work flexibly with the concepts, representations, and strategies of multiplication (and division) as they occur in a wide range of contexts.

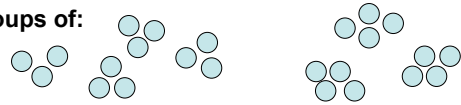
We also know a lot more about **how** children learn mathematics.

Meaningless rote-learning, mind-numbing, text-based drill and practice, and doing it one way, the teacher's way, does not work.

Concepts need to be **experienced**, strategies need to be **scaffolded** and EVERYTHING needs to be **discussed**.

## CONCEPTS FOR MULTIPLICATION:

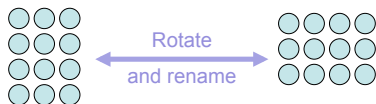
### 1. Groups of:



Focus is on the group. Only suitable for small whole numbers, for example, it makes some sense to think about 6 eights, but very little sense in trying to think about 57 groups of 76 or 4.56 groups of 0.23

**Strategies:** make-all/count-all groups, repeated addition (or skip counting).

### 2. Arrays:



Can see number in each group (equal groups), and the number of groups, but focus is on the product and representation supports commutativity (eg, 3 fours is the SAME AS 4 threes). This leads to more efficient mental strategies.

**Strategies:** mental strategies that build-on-from-known, eg, doubling and addition strategies

### NOTE: Arrays support a critical shift in thinking:

From counting equal groups:

**1 three, 2 threes, 3 threes, 4 threes, ...**

That is, the traditional focus on the **number in each group** and **how many groups**

$1 \times 3$   
 $2 \times 3$   
 $3 \times 3$   
 $4 \times 3$   
...

To a focus on the **number of groups**:

**3 ones, 3 twos, 3 threes, 3 fours, ...**

and **generalising**:

**3 groups of ... is double the group and 1 more group.**

This introduces the **factor** idea for multiplication

$3 \times 1$   
 $3 \times 2$   
 $3 \times 3$   
 $3 \times 4$   
...

### 3. Regions:



Continuous model. Same advantages as *array* idea (discrete model) – Regions establish the basis for the subsequent 'area' idea and support more efficient mental strategies for multiplication.

**Supports:** partitioning and the construction of fraction diagrams, for example, 3 parts (thirds) by 4 parts (quarters) produces 12 parts (twelfths)

## CONSOLIDATING UNDERSTANDING:

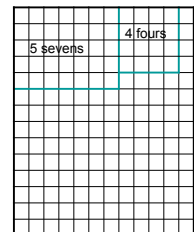
This can be achieved through games:

For example, **MULTIPLICATION TOSS \***

Each team/player needs a sheet of cm grid paper and 2 ten-sided dice (0 to 9).

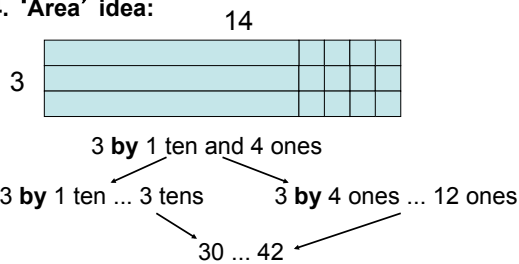
Players take it in turns to toss the dice. If a 5 and 7 are thrown, players can enclose either 5 rows of 7 (5 sevens) or 7 rows of 5. The game proceeds with no overlapping. The winner is the team/player with the most squares covered.

On any turn, a team/player can split their region into two separate regions, eg, 6 eights could be split into 4 eights and 2 eights or 3 eights and 3 eights to better fill in the spaces remaining.



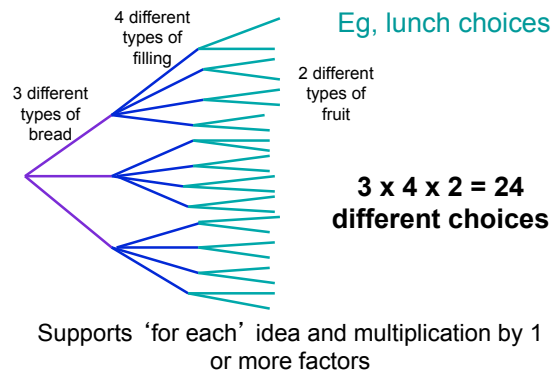
\* Included in the Common Misunderstanding Material, DoE website

#### 4. 'Area' idea:



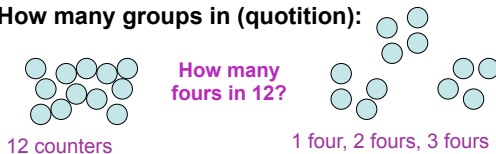
Supports multiplication by place-value parts and the use of extended number fact knowledge, eg, 4 tens by 2 ones is 8 tens ... Ultimately, 2-digit by 2-digit numbers and beyond

#### 5. Cartesian Product or 'for each' idea:



### CONCEPTS FOR DIVISION:

#### 1. How many groups in (quotition):



Really only suitable for small collections of small whole numbers, eg, some sense in asking: How many fours in 24? But very little sense in asking: How many eights in 3074 or how many groups of 4.8 in 34.5?

**Strategies:** make-all/count-all groups, repeated addition

#### Quotition (guzinta) Action Stories:

24 tennis balls need to be packed into cans that hold 3 tennis balls each. How many cans will be needed?

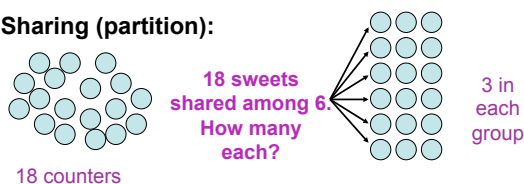
How many threes?

Sam has 48 marbles. He wants to give his friends 6 marbles each. How many friends will play marbles?

How many sixes?

**Total and number in each group known – Question relates to how many groups.**

#### 2. Sharing (partition):



A more powerful notion of division which relates to the **array** and **region** models for multiplication and extends to fractions and algebra

**Strategy:** 'Think of Multiplication', eg, 6 what's are 18? 6 threes

#### Partition Action Stories:

42 tennis balls are shared equally among 7 friends. How many tennis balls each?

THINK: 7 what's are 42?

Sam has 36 marbles. He packs them into 9 bags. How many marbles in each bag?

THINK: 9 what's are 36?

**Total and number of groups known – Question relates to number in each group.**

## MENTAL STRATEGIES FOR MULTIPLICATION FACTS 0 x 0 TO 9 x 9:

- Doubles and doubles 'reversed' (twos facts\*)
- Doubles and 1 more group ... (threes facts)
- Double, doubles ... (fours facts)
- Same as (ones and zero facts)
- Relate to ten (fives and nines facts)
- Rename number of groups (remaining facts)

\* 2 ones, 2 twos, 2 threes, 2 fours, 2 fives, 2 sixes etc

## Traditional Multiplication 'Tables':

The 'traditional tables' are not really tables at all but lists of equations which **count groups**, for example:

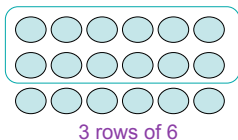
1 x 3 = 3	1 x 4 = 4
2 x 3 = 6	2 x 4 = 8
3 x 3 = 9	3 x 4 = 12
4 x 3 = 12	4 x 4 = 16
5 x 3 = 15	5 x 4 = 20
6 x 3 = 18	6 x 4 = 24
7 x 3 = 21	7 x 4 = 28
8 x 3 = 24	8 x 4 = 32
9 x 3 = 27	9 x 4 = 36
10 x 3 = 30	10 x 4 = 40
11 x 3 = 33	11 x 4 = 44
12 x 3 = 36	12 x 4 = 48

This is grossly inefficient

3 fours is not seen to be the same as 4 threes ...  
10's and beyond not necessary

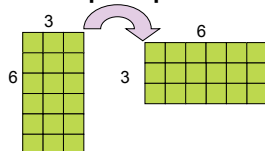
## Mental strategies build on experiences with arrays and regions:

Eg, 3 sixes ... THINK:  
double 6 ... 12, and 1  
more 6 ... 18



And the commutative principle:

Eg, For 6 threes ...  
THINK:  
3 sixes ...  
double 6, 12, and 1  
more 6 ... 18



## A more appropriate multiplication 'table':

Uses a **region model** to support efficient, mental strategies based on the **factor** idea:

4 rows of 1  
4 ones



X	1	2	3	4	5
1	1 one	1 two	1 three	1 four	1 five
2	2 ones	2 twos	2 threes	2 fours	2 fives
3	3 ones	3 twos	3 threes	3 fours	3 fives
4	4 ones	4 twos	4 threes	4 fours	4 fives
5	5 ones	5 twos	5 threes	5 fours	5 fives

## A more appropriate multiplication 'table':

Uses a **region model** to support efficient, mental strategies based on the **factor** idea:

4 rows of 2  
4 twos



X	1	2	3	4	5
1	1 one	1 two	1 three	1 four	1 five
2	2 ones	2 twos	2 threes	2 fours	2 fives
3	3 ones	3 twos	3 threes	3 fours	3 fives
4	4 ones	4 twos	4 threes	4 fours	4 fives
5	5 ones	5 twos	5 threes	5 fours	5 fives

## A more appropriate multiplication 'table':

Uses a **region model** to support efficient, mental strategies based on the **factor** idea:

4 rows of 3  
4 threes



X	1	2	3	4	5
1	1 one	1 two	1 three	1 four	1 five
2	2 ones	2 twos	2 threes	2 fours	2 fives
3	3 ones	3 twos	3 threes	3 fours	3 fives
4	4 ones	4 twos	4 threes	4 fours	4 fives
5	5 ones	5 twos	5 threes	5 fours	5 fives

### A more appropriate multiplication 'table':

Uses a **region model** to support efficient, mental strategies based on the **factor** idea:

X	1	2	3	4	5
1	1 one	2 two	3 three	4 four	5 five
2	2 ones	2 twos	2 threes	2 fours	2 fives
3	3 ones	3 twos	3 threes	3 fours	3 fives
4	4 ones	4 twos	4 threes	4 fours	4 fives
5	5 ones	5 twos	5 threes	5 fours	5 fives

Eg, 4s Facts:

Read across the row →

"4 ones, 4 twos, 4 threes, 4 fours, ... 4 of anything"

This halves the learning as

7 fours

Can be rotated to show ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1 one	2 two	3 three	4 four	5 five	6 six	7 seven	8 eight	9 nine
2	2 ones	2 twos	2 threes	2 fours	2 fives	2 sixes	2 sevens	2 eights	2 nines
3	3 ones	3 twos	3 threes	3 fours	3 fives	3 sixes	3 sevens	3 eights	3 nines
4	4 ones	4 twos	4 threes	4 fours	4 fives	4 sixes	4 sevens	4 eights	4 nines
5	5 ones	5 twos	5 threes	5 fours	5 fives	5 sixes	5 sevens	5 eights	5 nines
6	6 ones	6 twos	6 threes	6 fours	6 fives	6 sixes	6 sevens	6 eights	6 nines
7	7 ones	7 twos	7 threes	7 fours	7 fives	7 sixes	7 sevens	7 eights	7 nines
8	8 ones	8 twos	8 threes	8 fours	8 fives	8 sixes	8 sevens	8 eights	8 nines
9	9 ones	9 twos	9 threes	9 fours	9 fives	9 sixes	9 sevens	9 eights	9 nines

... that it is the same as

4 sevens

double, doubles

14 ... 14

28

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1 one	2 two	3 three	4 four	5 five	6 six	7 seven	8 eight	9 nine
2	2 ones	2 twos	2 threes	2 fours	2 fives	2 sixes	2 sevens	2 eights	2 nines
3	3 ones	3 twos	3 threes	3 fours	3 fives	3 sixes	3 sevens	3 eights	3 nines
4	4 ones	4 twos	4 threes	4 fours	4 fives	4 sixes	4 sevens	4 eights	4 nines
5	5 ones	5 twos	5 threes	5 fours	5 fives	5 sixes	5 sevens	5 eights	5 nines
6	6 ones	6 twos	6 threes	6 fours	6 fives	6 sixes	6 sevens	6 eights	6 nines
7	7 ones	7 twos	7 threes	7 fours	7 fives	7 sixes	7 sevens	7 eights	7 nines
8	8 ones	8 twos	8 threes	8 fours	8 fives	8 sixes	8 sevens	8 eights	8 nines
9	9 ones	9 twos	9 threes	9 fours	9 fives	9 sixes	9 sevens	9 eights	9 nines

### Doubles (twos):

2 ones, 2 twos, 2 threes, 2 fours, 2 fives ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81

2 fours ...  
THINK:  
double 4 ... 8

2 sevens ...  
THINK:  
double 7 ... 14

But for 7  
twos ... THINK:  
double 7 ... 14

### Doubles and 1 more group (threes):

3 ones, 3 twos, 3 threes, 3 fours, 3 fives ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81

3 eights  
THINK:  
double 8 and  
1 more 8  
16, 20, 24

But for 9  
threes ...  
THINK?

3 twenty-threes?

### Doubles doubles (fours):

4 ones, 4 twos, 4 threes, 4 fours, 4 fives ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81

4 sixes THINK:  
double 6 ... 12  
double again,  
24

But for 8  
fours ...  
THINK?

4 forty-sevens?

### 'Same as' (ones and zeros):

1 one, 1 two, 1 three, 1 four, 1 five, ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81

1 of anything is itself ... 8 ones, same as 1 eight

Cannot show zero facts on table ...  
0 of anything is 0 ... 7 zeros, same as 0 sevens

### Relate to tens (fives and nines):

5 ones, 5 twos, 5 threes, 5 fours, 5 fives ...  
9 ones, 9 twos, 9 threes, 9 fours, 9 fives ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81

5 sevens  
THINK: half of 10 sevens, 35

8 fives ...  
THINK?

9 eights  
THINK: less than 10 eights, 1 eight less, 72

### Rename number of groups (remaining facts):

6 sixes, 6 sevens, 6 eights ... 7 sixes, 7 sevens, 7 eights ... 8 sixes, 8 sevens, 8 eights ...

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81

6 sevens  
THINK: 3 sevens and 3 sevens, 42 ...  
OR 5 sevens and 1 more 7

8 sevens  
THINK: 7 sevens is 49, and 1 more 7, 56

### MENTAL STRATEGY FOR DIVISION:

- Think of multiplication

Eg, 56 divided by 7? ...

THINK: 7 what's are 56?

... 7 sevens are 49, 7 eights are 56

So, 56 divided by 7 is 8

Work with **fact families**:

What do you know if you know that 6 fours are 24?

4 sixes are 24,  
24 divided by 4 is 6,  
24 divided by 6 is 4,  
1 quarter of 24 is 6,  
1 sixth of 24 is 4

### INITIAL RECORDING:

Once strategies known, introduce initial recording to support place-value

6  
 $\times 4$   
24  
Read as **4 sixes** ... THINK: doubles, doubles ...  
ASK: What do we know about 24?  
4 ones and 2 tens ... record ones with ones, and the tens with tens

8  
 $\times 6$   
48  
Read as **6 eights** ... THINK: 5 eights and 1 more eight ... 40, 48  
ASK: What do we know about 48?  
8 ones and 4 tens ... record ones with ones and tens with tens

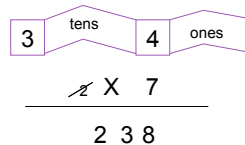
### Multiply 2-digit by 1-digit numbers:

Mentally:

THINK:  
7 by 3 tens, 21 tens, and 7 fours  
... 210 and 28 ... 238 ... OR? ...

Eg, for 34 x 7

Using Number Expanders:



7 by 4 ones ... 28 ones

Record ones with ones and tens to regroup

7 by 3 tens ... 21 tens, and 2 more tens, 23 tens

Record with the tens

### Divide whole numbers by ones:

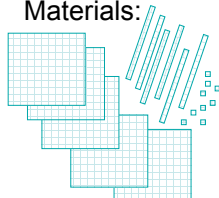
Mentally:

Eg, for  $569 \div 8$

THINK:

8 what's are about 569?  
8 by 7 tens is 56 tens ... 560  
enough for 1 more eight ... so  
71 and 1 remainder

Materials:



Can we share hundreds among 8? No, trade for tens.

Can we share 56 tens among 8? Yes, 7 each

What's left to share? 9 ones, 1 each and 1 remaining

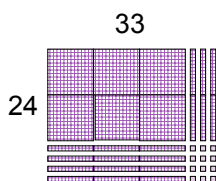
56 tens 9 ones

### CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS:

By the end of Year 5 ...

- Identify and describe factors and multiples of whole numbers and use them to solve problems (ACMNA098)...
- Solve problems involving multiplication of large numbers by one- or two-digit numbers using efficient mental, written strategies and appropriate digital technologies (ACMNA100)
- Solve problems involving division by a one-digit number including those that result in a remainder (ACMNA101)...
- Use equivalent number sentences involving multiplication and division to find unknown quantities (ACMNA121)

### Multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers:



Use  
MAB to  
support  
'area'  
concept

$$\begin{array}{r} 33 \\ 1 \times 24 \\ \hline 132 \\ 660 \\ \hline 792 \end{array}$$

**Ones by ones ...**

4 ones by 3 ones is 12 ones  
Record 2 ones and 1 ten to regroup

**Ones by tens ...**

4 ones by 3 tens is 12 tens and  
1 more ten, 13 tens, record

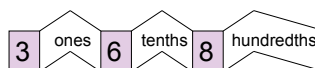
**Tens by ones ...**

2 tens by 3 ones is 6 tens  
Record 6 tens and 0 ones

**Tens by tens ...**

2 tens by 3 tens is 6 hundreds  
Record 6 hundreds  
Add to find total

### Multiply decimals and fractions by ones:



Language?

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \quad 3 \quad \times 4 \\ \hline 14.72 \end{array}$$

4 by 8 hundredths .....

4 by 6 tenths ...

4 by 3 ones ....

Language?

$$\begin{array}{r} 6\frac{3}{4} \\ \times 4 \\ \hline 27 \end{array}$$

4 by 3 quarters, 12 quarters

0 parts, 3 ones to regroup

4 by 6 ones, 24 ones and 3 more ones, 27

### Divide whole numbers and decimals by ones:

$$8 \overline{)458}$$

$$8 \overline{)458}$$

$$8 \overline{)458.00}$$

Can I share 4 hundreds among 8? No.  
Trade hundreds for tens

Can I share 45 tens among 8? Yes ...  
How many left to share? 5 tens

Trade tens for ones

Can I share 58 ones among 8? Yes ...

How many left to share? 4 ones

Rename as tenths

Can I share 20 tenths among 8? Yes ...

How many left to share? 4 tenths

Rename as hundredths

Can I share 40 hundredths? Yes ...

How many left to share? None

### CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS:

By the end of Year 7 ...

- Investigate index notation and represent whole numbers as products of powers of prime numbers (ACMNA149)...
- Apply the associative, commutative and distributive laws to aid mental and written computation (ACMNA151)...
- Multiply and divide fractions and decimals using efficient written strategies and digital technologies (ACMNA154)...
- Express one quantity as a fraction of another, with and without the use of digital technologies (ACMNA155)
- Connect fractions, decimals and percentages and carry out simple conversions (ACMNA157)
- Find percentages of quantities and express one quantity as a percentage of another ... (ACMNA158)
- Recognise and solve problems involving simple ratios (ACMNA173)
- Investigate and calculate 'best buys' ... (ACMNA174)...

With and without the use of digital technologies