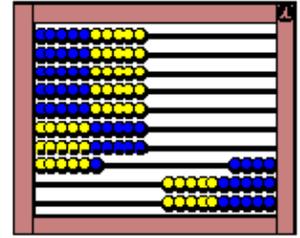




World Kids

Fun for kids! true stories!



PAL Project Number 25 - June 2010

One subject that is learned by children in much the same way all around the world is.....can you guess? MATH, or as it was called years ago when I went to school, arithmetic. Numbers are important in life, and from the beginning of time Man has wanted to count things and record them - especially when doing business. Many different things have been used such as pebbles, knotted strings and tally sticks. The picture on the left above shows several different tally sticks - simple lengths of bone or wood with notches cut into them to record numbers. If two people made an agreement involving trading a certain number of animals or other items of value, the number was recorded on the wood and then the stick was split down the middle so that each person had a record of it. These tally sticks were still used in **England** up until 1826, and in **Germany** and **Switzerland** even until the 20th Century! The picture on the right shows another method of counting that was used in **Greece**, **Rome**, **Russia** and **China** - and is still even used today! It is called the ABACUS.

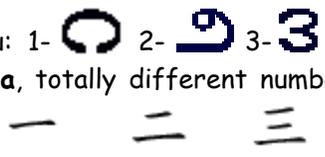


Can you tell what number is represented on the abacus above?

Of course adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing of numbers is the same all over the world no matter what language is spoken, although the actual NAMES of the numbers are different in each language. For example 1,2,3 (one, two, three) in English is actually "uno, dos, tres" in **Spanish**; "un, deux, trois" in **French** and "eins, zwei, drei" in **German**! But also in many parts of the world even the numbers 1,2,3 are different because not only is the language there written in another type of alphabet but the numbers are also! You may already know that "1,2,3" in Roman numerals is "I,II,III". In fact, "1,2,3" and the rest of our common European numbers are actually considered to be "Arabic numerals" because they originally developed from the Arabic system, as seen here on the left! These numbers 1,2,3 in **Arabic** are "wahed, ithnain, telathe".



In other countries including **India**, numbers are similar - such as these in Telugu: 1- ౧ 2- ౨ 3- ౩ where they are called "okati, rendu, moodu". But in many other places such as **China**, totally different number systems developed through the centuries. The Chinese numbers for 1,2,3 are called "it, o, san" and in **Korea** there are actually TWO completely different number systems which are used, so children there have to learn BOTH! (Maybe they have to do TWICE AS MUCH MATH!) In **Russia**, there is again a totally different system and numbers are written out more like words: 1 - один (adeen); 2 - два (dva); 3 - три (tri).



In Biblical times both in **Greek** and **Hebrew**, the letters of the alphabet were used also as numbers! This was rather confusing at times and so sometimes a tiny dot was placed over the symbol to make the difference. In **Greek** the numbers 1,2,3 were called "eis, duo, treiis" although they were also the letters "alpha, beta, gamma" and in **Hebrew** they were called "aleph, beth, gimel"



These number/letter names also had meaning as certain words, and so numbers were always considered very important in the Bible, and often had special significance that we might not normally understand today. Can you think of any numbers that tend to appear commonly throughout the Bible?

Can you name different Bible stories that each include one of the following numbers? **3; 7; 12; 40**



Many times the Bible records exact numbers, and Jesus says that even the hairs on our head are numbered! God pays attention to every little detail of our lives because He loves us so much! If we also pay attention to little details in the Bible stories we read, we can learn some amazing things as well as having some fascinating math challenges! See if you can answer these practical math problems by reading the Bible stories!

1. Addition

How many times did the Children of Israel walk around the walls of the city of Jericho?
(Read **Joshua 6** - Add the numbers in verses 14 and 15)

3. Multiplication

- a) How much gold was given to King Solomon in just one year?
(Read **1 Kings 10:14**)
- b) If 1 talent = 2,000 ounces and the price of gold today is \$1,220 per ounce, how much would King Solomon's gold be worth today?

4. Multiplication and Division

- a) If each pot contained about 25 gallons, how much water did Jesus turn into wine?
(Read **John 2:6**)
- b) If there had been 3 servants filling the pots and each could carry 5 gallons at the time from the well, how many trips did each have to make?

2. Addition and Subtraction

- a) How many men started in Gideon's army?
Subtract those who were afraid. Then subtract those he didn't choose, to see how many were left.
(Read **Judges 7**)
- b) How many men did the enemy have fighting against Gideon's army?
(Read **Judges 8:10** and add the number who were left and the number that had died)

5. Addition and Multiplication

How many people did Moses lead out of Egypt and across the Red Sea into the wilderness?
(Read **Numbers 2:32,33** - Multiply the number of men by 4 to allow for each to have a wife and 2 children. Then add the number of Levites in **Numbers 3:39**.
Also read **Exodus 12:38** for your final answer)

I hope you had fun - and also got a new desire to read more exciting Bible stories!
'Til next time,

Your Friend, Shirley

Facts from various websites including: www.zompist.com and www.easycalculator.com

Answers: **Abacus** - 76; **Bible stories** - 3: Jonah in the whale, Jesus in the tomb, gifts given to Baby Jesus, Hebrews in fiery furnace; 7: marches around Jericho, Naaman's dips in Jordan, years of harvest and then famine in Egypt, churches in book of Revelation; 12: disciples of Jesus, spies who went into Canaan, tribes of Israel, months of beauty treatments for Esther; 40: days and nights of Flood, years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, days and nights Jesus spent in wilderness,and more possible answers!

Bible Math - 1:13; 2:a)300 b)135,000; 3:a)666 talents b)\$1,625,040,000; 4:a)150 gals b)10; 5:about 2,456,200 plus many others not Israelites!

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