

# Developing Conceptual Understanding of Number

## Set D: Number Theory

Carole Bilyk  
[cbilyk@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cbilyk@gov.mb.ca)

Wayne Watt  
[wwatt@mts.net](mailto:wwatt@mts.net)

# Number Theory 1

## Vocabulary

- digit
- hundred's place
- whole numbers
- even
- odd
- multiple
- prime
- composite
- factor
- denominator
- numerator

## Notes

- For 4a), students need to understand that  $\frac{1}{2}$  is the same as  $\frac{8}{16}$ .

## Answers

- a) 4
  - b) second digit before the decimal (6)
  - c) 7
- a) 9, 10, 11
  - b) 658, 659
  - c) 40, 41
  - d) 4, 6
  - e) 5, 7
- a) 490
  - b) 11
  - c) 32
  - d) 21
- a) 7
  - b) 5
  - c) 15

# Number Theory 1

1. For the number  $\boxed{2467.5}$ , what digit:
- is in the hundred's place?
  - has a value of 60?
  - is in the one's position?
- 

2. Identify all the whole numbers that are:
- between 8 and 12
  - between 657 and 660
- 

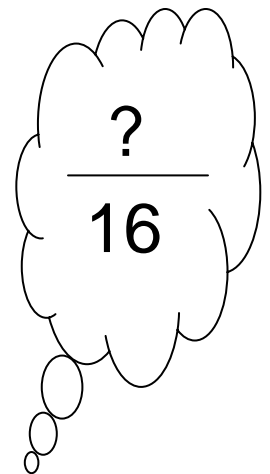
- between 39.2 and 41.9
  - even and between 2 and 7
  - odd and satisfy  $4 < n < 9$
- 

3. Find a whole number that is:
- a multiple of 2 between 488 and 492
  - prime and between 8 and 12
  - the first composite number after 30
  - odd, satisfies  $16 < r < 23$ , and has a factor of 3
- 

4. Consider fractions with a denominator of 16.

Choose a whole number numerator that would make the fraction:

- a little less than one-half.
- a little more than one-quarter
- almost 1



# Number Theory 2

## Vocabulary

- thousand's place
- place value
- location
- divisible

## Notes

- Question #3 builds on the questions from Representing Numbers.

## Answers

- a) 6
  - b) 5
  - c) tens
  - d) 1 hundred or 100
- a) Possible Answers:
    - from largest to smallest
    - decreasing order
    - descending order
    - ...
  - b) Possible Answers:
    - in ten's position
    - third from the left
    - between 6 and 1
    - ...
  - c) 165
  - d) 96
- a) Possible Answers:
    - There are 3 because 139 added to 721 does not get over 1000 which is where it switches to 4 digits.
    - ...
  - b) Possible Answers:
    - There are 3 because subtracting more than 246 makes the answer a bit less than 1000.
    - ...

## Number Theory 2

1. Use the digits in 96 145 to answer the following:

- f) What is the value in the thousand's place?
  - g) Which digit is a prime number?
  - h) What is the place value of the digit "4"?
  - i) What does "1" represent?
- 

2. You have a 4-digit number as shown.

**9651**

- a) How would you describe the arrangement of these digits?
  - b) How could you describe the location of the 5?
- 

- c) What is the smallest number ending in a prime that can be made using 3 of the digits?
  - d) What is the largest number you can make using only digits that are divisible by 3?
- 

3. Without doing the actual calculations, explain how you know the number of digits in the answers to:

- a)  $139 + 721$
- b)  $1246 - 379$

# Number Theory 3

## Vocabulary

- calculation
- product

## Notes

## Answers

1. Possible Answers:
  - Odd
  - Prime
  - Less than 8
  - Greater than 6
  - Factor of 14
  - $6 < 7 < 8$
  - In  $42 \div 7$ , we say 7 is the divisor
  - ...
2. Possible Answers:
  - Think of the question as  $150 \times \frac{1}{2}$ . Then the product is about 75 and is less than 75.
  - Nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 146
  - Slightly less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 146
  - Between 70 and 73 ( $140 \times 0.5; 146 \times 0.5$ )
  - $70 < \text{answer} < 73$
  - $73 > \text{answer} > 70$
  - Approximately 73
  - Less than 72 ( $146 \times 0.5 = 73$ ,  $146 \times 0.01 = 1.46$ )
  - ...

## Number Theory 3

1. Use mathematical words or phrases to describe the number 7. Give at least 4 answers.

- 
2. Without doing the actual calculation, what do you know about the product of 146 and 0.49?

# Number Theory 4

## Vocabulary

### Notes

- For 3c), have students discuss why 0 could be an acceptable answer. It would mean you have 0 parts out of 8.

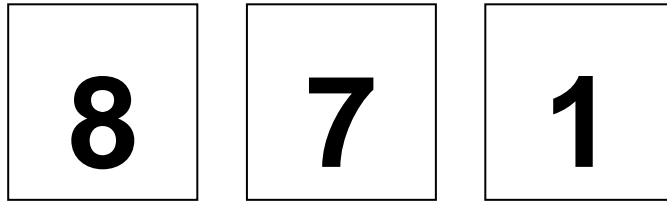
### Answers

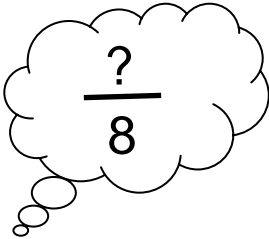
1. a) 187  
b) 17  
c) 718
2. a) 700 and 701  
b) 4, 6, 8, and 9  
c) 100, 110, and 120
3. a) 7  
b) 5  
c) 0 or 1
4. 6.75, 6.749, 6.71, 6.7
5. Possible Answers:
  - Smaller
  - Lower
  - Littler
  - $<$
  - $\downarrow$
  - ...



# Number Theory 4

1. You have only three cards with the numbers shown.



- a) What is the number between 179 and 200 that can be made using all 3 cards?
- b) What is the smallest prime number that can be made using 2 cards?
- c) What is the largest even number that can be made using all 3 cards?
2. Name all the whole numbers that are:
- a) between 699 and 701.8
- b) composite and less than 10
- c) multiples of 10 as well as between 95 and 125
3. Consider fractions with a denominator of 8. Choose a whole number numerator that would make the fraction:
- a) almost 1
- b) a little more than one-half
- c) as small as possible
- 
- A thought bubble with a question mark above a horizontal line and the number 8 below it, representing the fraction
- $\frac{?}{8}$
- .

4. Arrange the following numbers in descending order:  
6.71                  6.7                  6.75                  6.749

5. List words, phrases or symbols meaning “less than”.

# Number Theory 5

## Vocabulary

- tenths

## Notes

- For #4, although students could get the answer through division ( $8091 \div 93$ ), it is easier to consider multiplying the digits in the one's position.
- For #5, students could think of 0.97 as approximately 1.
- To know the answer to #5 is slightly less than 8, note that :  
$$8.2 \times 0.97$$
$$= 8.2 \times (1 - 0.03)$$
$$= 8.2 \times 1 - 8.2 \times 0.03$$
Since  $8.2 \times 0.03 > 0.2$ , the answer is less than 8.

## Answers

- a) 1009 or 1010
  - b) 18 or 24
  - c) 13 or 17
  - d) 40, 42, 44, 46 or 48
- a) 3
  - b) 5
  - c) 7
- a) Possible Answers:
    - There are 4 digits because adding more than 760 to 240 puts the total over 1000.
    - ...
  - b) Possible Answers:
    - There are 3 digits because subtracting more than 89 gives an answer under 1000.
    - ...
- Possible Answers:
  - $3 \times \square$  must end in 1. The only number you can use is 7.
  - ...
- Possible Answers:
  - less than 8.2
  - close to 8.2
  - answer is slightly less than 8
  - ...

# Number Theory 5

- Write a whole number satisfying the following:
  - between 1008.9 and 1010.1
  - divisible by 6 between 15 and 25
  - $11 < n < 19$  and prime
  - even, has a 4 in the tens place and contains 2 digits.
- Consider the number 2035.79  
Name the digit that:
  - has a place value of 10.
  - is in the one's position
  - is in the tenth's position.
- Without doing the actual calculations, explain how you know the number of digits in the answer to:
  - $240 + 789$
  - $1089 - 99$
- The box represents a missing digit. Explain how you could find the missing digit.

$$93 \times 8 \square = 8091$$

- Without doing the actual calculation, what do you know about the product of 8.2 and 0.97?

# Number Theory 6

## Vocabulary

## Notes

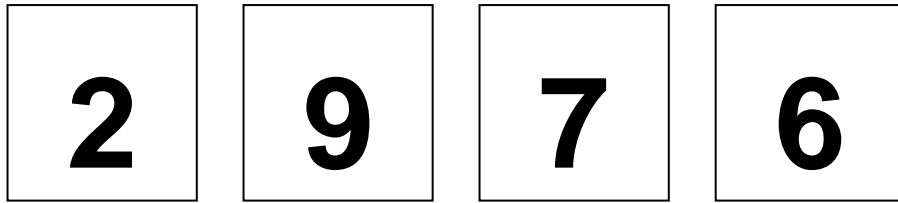
- The divisibility rule for 3 might be discussed, but for interest only.
- For 3a), have students discuss why 0 could be a possible answer. It would mean you have 0 parts out of 8.

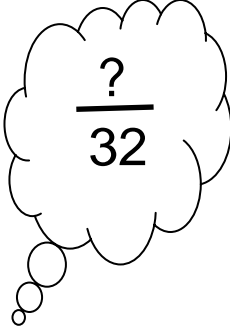
## Answers

1. a) 967  
b) 29  
c) 27
2. a) 2700 and 2701  
b) 40 and 42  
c) 66 and 60
3. a) 0 or 1  
b) 7  
c) 20
4. 2315.6, 2315.9, 2315.92, 2316  
or  
 $2315.6 < 2315.9 < 2315.92 < 2316$
5. Possible Answers:
  - More
  - >
  - larger
  - higher
  - ↑
  - bigger
  - ...

## Number Theory 6

1. You have only four cards with the numbers shown.



- d) What is the largest odd number that can be made using 3 cards?
- e) What is the smallest prime number that can be made using 2 cards?
- f) What is the smallest number divisible by 3 that can be made using 2 cards?
2. Name all the whole numbers that are:
- d) between 2699.4 and 2701.8
- e) composite as well as between 39 and 44
- f) multiples of 6 and satisfy  $69 > n > 58$
3. Consider fractions with a denominator of 32. Choose a whole number numerator that would make the fraction:
- d) as small as possible
- e) be a little less than one-quarter
- f) have a value of  $\frac{5}{8}$
- 
- A thought bubble containing the fraction  $\frac{?}{32}$ .

4. Arrange the following numbers in ascending order:  
2315.6      2316      2315.9      2315.92

5. List words, phrases or symbols meaning “greater than”.

# Number Theory 7

## Vocabulary

## Notes

- For 1b), students could look for a pattern. Students might want to start at 60 and work backward. The divisibility rule for 3 might make the question easier.
- For #5, students need to combine finding a value on the number line (introduced in Set A) with multiplying.

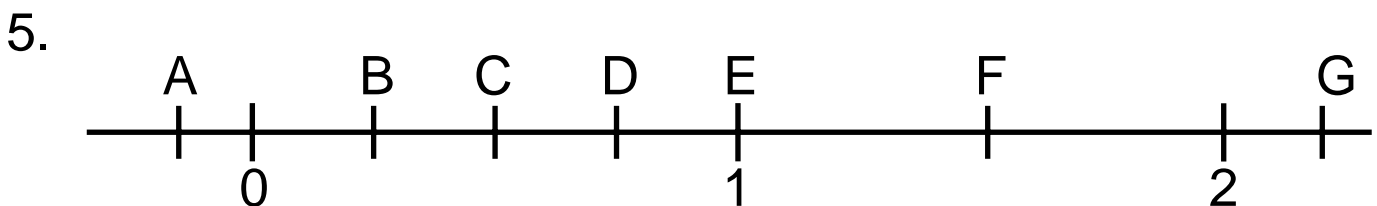
## Answers

- a) 37, 41, 43, and 47
  - b) 51, 54, and 57
- a) 5                      b) 6
  - c) 0                      d) 15610.8
- a) Possible Answers:
    - 3 because the sum is less than 1000.
    - ...
  - b) Possible Answers:
    - 4 because the product is larger than 2570 ( $257 \times 10$ ) but certainly not beyond 10 000 where the number of digits increase to 5.
    - ...
- Possible Answers:
  - Answer should be 5 since  $800 \times 50 = 40\,000$  and  $800 \times 60 = 48\,000$ . The answer cannot be 6 since  $800 \times 60$  is larger than the answer given.
  - ...
- Possible Answers:
  - If  $C = \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $F = 1\frac{1}{2}$ , then the answer should be less than 1 but greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . The answer is D.
  - C is less than 1 and approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ . F is less than 2. Since  $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  times something less than 2 would be less than 1 but greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . So the answer is D.
  - ...

# Number Theory 7

- Write all whole numbers satisfying the following:
  - $31 < n < 49$  and prime
  - has a 5 in the tens place, contains 2 digits and is divisible by 3.
- Use 15 609.8 to answer the following:
  - digit with a place value of 1000.
  - number of digits in 15609.8
  - digit in the ten's position.
  - number which is 1 greater than the given number.
- Without doing the actual calculations, explain how you know the number of digits in the answer to:
  - $260 + 729$
  - $257 \times 12$
- The box represents a missing digit. Explain how you could find the value for the missing digit.

$$836 \times \square 6 = 46816$$



If the fractions represented by points C and F are multiplied, what point on the number line best represents the product? Why?