

Factors and Multiples - Teaching Strategies

Factors and multiples are useful facts to know about numbers used in lots of more advanced mathematics, including fractions work, measurement, geometry, and probability.

Knowing factors and multiples of numbers to 100 will equip students in many ways in future mathematics classes.

Rules of Divisibility

Knowing these rules will allow a student to handle a much bigger set of numbers beyond the basic number facts. Rules of divisibility are an area of mathematical knowledge that can be used for many purposes, from primary or elementary years

Memorize

A procedure for this operation is basic arithmetic. Basic arithmetic facts to know and do good sense beyond

It shows numbers

numbers, and so other strategies are needed to “fill in the blanks”. For example, knowing that 75 is a multiple of 3 and 5 is important for many purposes, and yet this is not revealed in the basic multiples of 3 (to 30) or 5 (to 50).

¹ In some schools, such as in the UK, students learn basic multiplication and division facts to 12 x 12. Students who have memorized facts to at least 10 x 10 should be able to learn to cope with higher multiples.



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“evenly”, or without any remainder. A number which has a particular factor may be termed a *multiple* of that factor. For example:

The factors of 6 are 1, 2, 3, & 6.

Six is a multiple of 1, 2, 3, & 6.

Naturally, every positive integer (whole number) is a multiple of one, and a multiple of itself. Numbers which have only those two factors (e.g., 2, 3, 5, & 7) are called *prime* numbers. Numbers with more than two