Mary's Age

Topic: Algebra

Students will be given a word problem. They will be required to form an equation and solve it to determine Mary's age.

Year Group: 1st Year Level: Mixed Ability

Can you work out Marys age?

Presenting the Problem



Mary is a certain age. In 3 years time John will be twice her age. John will be 27 in 3 years time

Flow of the Lesson

Teaching Sequence

Students will given a problem via google classroom. Students will be given ten minutes to individually study the problem.

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- During this time they write an equation for the problem they are given. They solve the equation and find Mary's Age Ask students to explain what variable they used to represent the missing number ask them to explain what the missing number represents. (Remember that they may have a valid reason even if it is different to yours.) Ask students to share the equations they have come up with
- Ask students did they find mary's age
- 6. Share solutions







5 minutes





20 minutes

5 minutes

Reflecting on the Learning

The lesson was intended to get students writing an equation to represent a real world problem. This intention was only met by one student with the majority of the students who took part in the lesson not writing an equation to solve the problem. In light of this the majority of the students were able to get the correct answer to the problem by working backwards based on the information given. The wording of the problem did cause some confusion for the majority of students. A change in the wording may have resulted in more finding the right answer.





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Maths Counts 2017 Engaging teachers in Lesson Study





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