

Game Time

Math Magic

You can guess what your friends are thinking by learning to “operate” your way into their minds! For example, try this math magic trick.

Think of a number. Multiply the number by 8, divide by 2, add 5, and then subtract 4 times the original number.

No matter what number you choose, the answer will always be 5. Try another number and see. You can use what you know about variables to prove it. Here’s how:

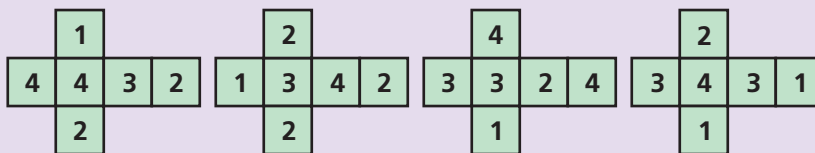


	What you say:	What the person thinks:	What the math is:
Step 1:	Pick any number.	6 (for example)	n
Step 2:	Multiply by 8 .	$8(6) = 48$	$8n$
Step 3:	Divide by 2 .	$48 \div 2 = 24$	$8n \div 2 = 4n$
Step 4:	Add 5 .	$24 + 5 = 29$	$4n + 5$
Step 5:	Subtract 4 times the original number.	$29 - 4(6) = 29 - 24 = 5$	$4n + 5 - 4n = 5$

Invent your own math magic trick that has at least five steps. Show an example using numbers and variables. Try it on a friend!

Crazy Cubes

This game, called The Great Tantalizer around 1900, was reintroduced in the 1960s as “Instant Insanity™.” Make four cubes with paper and tape, numbering each side as shown.



The goal is to line up the cubes so that 1, 2, 3, and 4 can be seen along the top, bottom, front, and back of the row of cubes. They can be in any order, and the numbers do not have to be right-side up.

