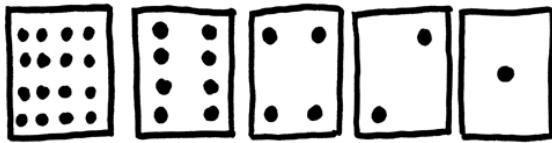


Binary Numbers

Introduction

Before giving out the worksheet on page 5, it can be helpful to demonstrate the principles to the whole group.

For this activity, you will need a set of five cards, as shown below, with dots on one side and nothing on the other. Choose five children to hold the demonstration cards at the front of the class. The cards should be in the following order:



Discussion

What do you notice about the number of dots on the cards? (Each card has twice as many as the card to its right.)

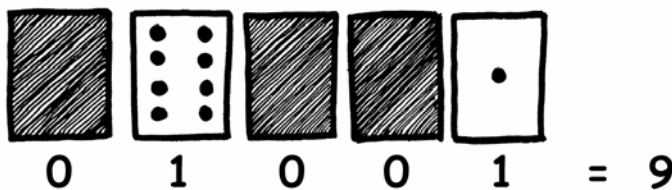
How many dots would the next card have if we carried on to the left? (32) The next...?

We can use these cards to make numbers by turning some of them face down and adding up the dots that are showing. Ask the children to make 6 (4-dot and 2-dot cards), then 15 (8-, 4-, 2- and 1-dot cards), then 21 (16, 4 and 1)...

Now try counting from zero onwards.

The rest of the class needs to look closely at how the cards change to see if they can see a pattern in how the cards flip (each card flips half as often as the one to its right). You may like to try this with more than one group.

When a binary number card is **not** showing, it is represented by a zero. When it **is** showing, it is represented by a one. This is the binary number system.



Ask the children to make 01001. What number is this in decimal? (9) What would 17 be in binary? (10001)

Try a few more until they understand the concept.

There are five optional follow-up extension activities, to be used for reinforcement. The children should do as many of them as they can.