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BAR MODELLING PROGRESSION



ESSENTIALMATHS V2.0.



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INTRODUCTION

Bar modelling is used widely in Singapore, Japan and USA as an effective part of the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) approach to the mastery of mathematics. It allows children to see the relationship between the parts and the whole. Bars or boxes are used to represent known and unknown quantities.

Concrete materials are embedded alongside pictorial representations and abstract expressions to ensure procedural fluency and conceptual understanding are developed in tandem. It is not a method for problem solving but does reveal the mathematical structure beneath the problem and mathematical relationships between its component parts.

Many teachers have found the approach very effective in gaining an enduring understanding for children by providing many tangible and memorable experiences to draw upon in their learning.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

As we know, the aims of the national curriculum require the children to:

- become fluent ... through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems [to] develop conceptual understanding
- reason mathematically
- solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication

For each year group and mathematical domain, relevant statements from the national curriculum programme of study are identified and exemplified using bar modelling as part of the CPA approach.

CONCRETE







PICTORIAL

ABSTRACT









Addition and subtraction

Problems involving addition and subtraction have three possible unknowns. When given the value of two unknowns, the third can be found.



KEY MODEL:

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Multiplication and division: EQUAL GROUPS

Problems involving multiplication and division have three possible unknowns – product, group size or number of groups. When given the value of two unknowns, the third can be found. In bar modelling, all blocks represent the replication of an equal unit.

Multiplication models – group size and number of groups provided but the product is unknown

There are three boxes with two teddy bears in each box. How many teddy bears are in total?



unknown)

needed?

Division models – product is known but either the group size or number of groups is unknown

Sharing (product and number of groups is known but <u>group size is</u> <u>unknown</u>)

If six teddy bears are shared equally into 3 boxes, how many teddy bears will be in each box?

Six is equal to three groups with two in each group.

If six teddy bears are to be packed 2 to a box, how many boxes are

Grouping (product and group size is known but number of groups is



6-2-2-2=0 6÷2=3

There are three twos in six. Two can be taken from six, three times. Three equal groups of two are equal to six.



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Multiplication and division: COMPARISON

Problems involving multiplicative comparison occur when two or more sets are compared by showing one set is 'a number of times' larger or smaller than the other set(s). Bar modelling focuses on the multiplicative relationship between the sets.

Multiplication models - the smaller set and the multiplicative relationship is known but the product is unknown

Amber read three books. Isabel read four times as many books as Amber. How many books did Isabel read?



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Number and place value

At this stage, children will be using multilink cubes and Cuisenaire Rods alongside their own pictorial representations (including a drawn bar model) which are then translated into abstract calculations and language.

• Count in multiplies of twos, fives and tens





- Given a number, identifies one more and one less
- Identifies and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations, including the number line and use the language of equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most, least

One more than seven is eight. Eight is one more than seven. Seven is one fewer than eight. One fewer than seven is six.

Seven is one more than six. Six is one fewer than seven.



There are more blue cubes than yellow cubes. There are fewer yellow cubes than blue cubes. They are not equal.



Addition and subtraction

At this stage, children should be exposed to different models of addition and subtraction. It is important that they develop deep understanding of how addition and subtraction are related to each other – focus on language and how one model can be interpreted in many ways.

- Read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs
- Represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20
- Add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, including zero
- Solve one-step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems such as 7 = □ 9

Addition

Aggregation (two quantities combined)

Three yellow sweets and two red sweets are on the table. How many sweets are on the table?



Augmentation (one quantity is increased)

There were three sweets on the table. Two more have been put on. How many sweets are on the table now?





YEAR





Further examples of the comparison model for Year 1: exploring equality, more than, less/fewer than and discovering commutativity of addition. Cuisenaire rods can be used to explore the generalised relationship of addition and subtraction.

	Yellow is green add re Red add green equals ye Yellow take away green equ Yellow take away red equals	ed. Billow. Bals red. S green. $5+3=8$
		3 + 5 = 8
8 5	$\leftarrow \xrightarrow{5} \leftarrow \xrightarrow{3} \rightarrow$	8 = 5 + 3
		8 = 3 + 5
		Three more than five is eight. Three add five is equal to eight. Five add three is equal to eight. Five more than three is 8.
		Eight subtract five is three. Five fewer than eight is three. Eight subtract three is five. Three fewer than eight is five.
	8	8 – 5 = 3
sure that children explore the models and can move the position of the		8 – 3 = 5
known quantity. How would I find the number	of blue cubes?	5 = 8 - 3
Can you give me a story problem which makes the five the unknown? Can you tell me about the model using 'greater than'? What else can you tell me?		3 = 8 - 5

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Multiplication and division

At this stage, it is important that the children begin to understand that multiplication and division involve the replication of a single unit a number of times and start to explore unitisation e.g., one block is worth two.

• Solve one-step problems involving multiplication and division, by calculating the answer by using concrete objects, pictorial representations and arrays with the support of the teacher

Doubling and halving





Multiplication (equal groups)

Amber wants to give her three friends two lollies each. How many lollies does she need?

2 + 2 + 2 = 6

 $3 \times 2 = 6$

2 + 2 = 4

 $2 \times 2 = 4$

 $4 \div 2 = 2$

4 - 2 - 2 = 0





Division (sharing)

YEAR

Amber has six lollies. She wants to share them equally between her three friends. How many lollies does each of her friends get?





Division (grouping)

Amber has six lollies. She wants to give each of her friends two lollies. How many friends can she give lollies to?

 $6 \div 2 = 3$







Addition and subtraction

- Solve problems with addition and subtraction:
 - using concrete objects and pictorial representations, including those involving numbers, quantities and measures
 - applying their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods
 - Recall and use addition and subtraction facts up to 20 fluently, and derive and use related facts up to 100
- Add and subtract numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations and mentally
- Show that addition of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and subtraction of one number from another cannot



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Further examples of addition and subtraction models for Year 2: exploring the structure of mathematical problems, with a focus on the meaning of 'more than' and 'less than / fewer than' in context.

Tom has 65cm of ribbon. This is 35cm less than Sam has. How much ribbon does Sam have?



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YEAR



Sam has 100cm of ribbon.

Ellie has £1 pocket money. She spent 27p on a pen and 14p on a rubber. How much money does she have left?











Further examples of multiplication and division models for Year 2:

Claire has 4 building blocks. Each building block is 3m long. If she lays them end to end to build a wall, how long is the wall?





Amber has a ribbon 30cm long. She cuts it into 3 equal pieces. How long is each piece?





Isabel bought some bags of apples. Each bag has a mass of 5kg. The mass of all the bags is 30kg. How many bags of apples did Isabel buy?





Amber bought some books at the school fair for £18. Each book cost £3. How many books did she buy?





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Subtraction

There are 350 pages in Amber's book. On Tuesday, she read 167 pages of her book. On Wednesday, she read the rest of the book. How many pages did she read on Wednesday?



James has collected 23 fewer football stickers than Sam. Sam has collected 97. How many football stickers has James collected?



A bag of flour weighed $\frac{3}{4}$ kg. Nicola used 600g of flour. How much flour is left in the bag?



What story problems could these bar models represent?







Check answers using the inverse

For the calculation 323 + 28, Amber undertakes the calculation 351 – 323. Can you explain why she chose to do this?



YEAR 3

Multi-step problems

Gill has £2 pocket money. She spends 70p on a comic and 50p on a bar of chocolate. How much change should she get?



Complete this table:

Year group	Number of children	
3	32	
4	33	
5	?	
6	27	
Total	120	











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Leigh is helping in the school library. She is packing books into two boxes. The first box has 5 books in it. The second box has five times as many books in it as the first box. How many more books does the second box hold than the first?



3

YEAR

Fractions

• Recognise, find and write fractions of discrete set of objects; unit fractions and non-unit fractions with small denominators

 $\frac{3}{8}$ of a class are boys. What fraction of the class are girls?







If there are 40 children in the class, how many boys are there?











• Solve problems that involve all of the above

Sally has 20 stickers on her page. One quarter of them are dog stickers. One half of them are cat stickers. The rest are rabbit stickers. How many rabbit stickers are on the page?



YEAR 3

What is the larger amount; one third of £60 or one quarter of £80?









Addition and subtraction

• Solve addition and subtraction two-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Emily is making a cake. She puts flour on the scales. Then she adds the sugar. How much sugar does she add?





Claire has £1.37. She needs £1.38 more to buy a packet of pens. How much do the pens cost?



Amber, Barry and Cathy run a 50m race. Barry's time is 13 seconds. Amber finishes 5 seconds before Barry. Cathy finishes 3 seconds after Barry. What is Cathy's time?





Multiplication and division

• Solve problems involving multiplication and adding, including using the distributive law to multiply two-digit numbers by one digit, integer scaling problems and harder correspondence problems such as *n* objects are connected to *m* objects

Integer scaling

Louise collects buttons. She bought some new buttons to add to her collection. She now has 120 buttons, which is three times as many buttons as she started with. How many buttons did she start with?



A length of elastic is stretched four times longer than its original size. It was 56cm long. How long is it now?







Correspondence problems

Chris has 9 times as many Lego figures as James. Together they have 120 Lego figures. How many more Lego figures does Chris have than James?



Claire has twice as many stickers as her friend Emma. Claire has 90 stickers. How many stickers do they have together?



Rate (non-statutory until Year 5)

An ice cream costs £1.20. Louise wants to buy 6 ice creams. How much will the ice creams cost?





4

YEAR

Fractions

- Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions (click to see Year 3 progression)
- Solve problems involving increasingly harder fractions to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities, including non-unit fractions where the answer is a whole number (see models below)
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator (click to see Year 3 progression)

Sally buys four fifths of the shop's apples. If the shop had 30 apples, how many apples did she buy?



James had some football cards. He gave two fifths away. He now has 24 cards. How many did he have to start with?















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Multiplication and division

• solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and a combination of these, including understanding the meaning of the equals sign

Every day, for 4 days, Sally scored 12.5 on her test. On her fifth day, she scored 14. What was her total score for the week?



I cut 80cm from a length of ribbon and shared the remainder between 3 friends. Each friend now has 1.3m of ribbon. How much did I start with?



The original model can be completed using the information from step 2.



At the school disco, there are 5 girls to every 3 boys. If there are 136 children at the disco. How many more girls than boys are there?





YEAR 5



Fractions

• Compare and order fractions whose denominators are all multiples of the same number

The aim is for children to discover the relationship and the rule for themselves.

Which fraction is greater; $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$?

Three quarters converted into twelfths



One sixth converted into twelfths



Fractions that have the same numerator can be compared using their denominators.

• Which is bigger;
$$\frac{3}{5}$$
 or $\frac{3}{6}$?

Fractions that have the same denominator can be compared using their numerators.

• Which is bigger; $\frac{2}{10}$ or $\frac{4}{10}$?















Fractions (including decimals and percentages)

• Add and subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions

To add these fractions, children need to convert them into equivalent fractions. Using Cuisenaire rods can support with refreshing their knowledge of equivalent fractions.



Deepen understanding by asking the children if there are other colour rods which would allow us to show halves and quarters on the same model.









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Ratio and proportion

• Solve problems involving unequal sharing and grouping using knowledge of fractions and multiples

In a survey, the ratio of the number of people who preferred 'ready-salted' to 'cheese and onion' crisps was 5:3. Forty-six more people preferred ready-salted. How many people took part in the survey?





YEAR 6

