

Math Investigation Center

The Mysterious Mayan

Unit of Study 1



Core Correlation: 5.NBT.1

DOK: 2

Type of Activity: Math and Social Studies

Materials: Internet access, paper, materials to create book

Introduction:

The history of the Mayan has fascinated people for hundreds of years. About two thousand years ago, around 400 BCE, the Mayan people settled on the Yucatan Peninsula of Central America. The Mayan were very clever people. Their system of mathematics was among the most sophisticated in the ancient world. Research the Mayan number system and investigate similarities and differences between their number system and ours. Create a picture book for the Mayan numbers 0-19.

Instructions:

- Use the Internet to research the Mayan Numerical System.
- Answer the following questions on a sheet of paper:
 - The Mayan were one of the only civilizations that understood which mathematical concept?
 - What number did a shell represent? A dot? A line?
 - How is the Mayan number system similar and/or different than our numerical system?
- Create a picture book for the Mayan numbers 0-19.
- Make a bibliography of your resources.

Assessment:

Grade will be determined by completion of the following:

- Answers to questions
- Picture book
- Bibliography