

QUICK ADDITION WITH THE CALENDAR

Math skills: Addition and multiplication
You will need: A calendar and a calculator
Difficulty level: 2

Introduction: Tell your class that you can add and multiply faster than the best calculator in the world!

What to do:

- ◆ Ask your volunteer to choose any full week on the calendar (meaning a week with seven days; the month doesn't matter) without showing it to you or to the class.
- ◆ Explain that the class will have to add the sum of the seven days of the week on their calculators.
- ◆ On the word go, have the volunteer announce out loud the date of the first day of the week that he chose. The first one to get the answer should announce it out loud.
- ◆ Since you will be the first one every single time, write it on a pad that the students can't see. When the first correct answer is yelled out, show your students that you got it long before they did!

How it works:

- ◆ Let's say the volunteer chooses the week of December 5th through December 11th.
- ◆ Add the number 3 to the first day ($5+3=8$). Multiply the sum by 7 ($7 \times 8=56$). That's your answer. ($5+6+7+8+9+10+11=56$)

Why it works:

If the first day of the week is A, then the days of the week are A, A+1, A+2, A+3, A+4, A+5 and A+6.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Add the seven days: } & A + A+1 + A+2 + A+3 + A+4 + A+5 + A+6 \\ & =7A +21 \\ & =A \times 7 + 3 \times 7 \\ & =(A+3) \times 7 \end{aligned}$$