

1st Grade Math: Place Value

Place value is a way to understand the position of each digit in a number and what it represents. In 1st grade, students focus on understanding place value for numbers up to **99**, specifically learning about **ones** and **tens**.

What is Place Value?

Place value tells us the **value** of a digit based on where it is in the number. In a two-digit number, the first digit represents **tens**, and the second digit represents **ones**.

For example, in the number **36**:

- The **3** represents **three tens** (which equals **30**).
- The **6** represents **six ones**.

Tens and Ones

- **Ones**: The rightmost digit shows how many single units (ones) there are.
- **Tens**: The second digit from the right shows how many groups of **10** there are.

Example 1: The Number 42

- The **4** is in the tens place, which means **4 tens** (or **40**).
- The **2** is in the ones place, which means **2 ones**.

So, **42** is the same as **40 + 2**.

Example 2: The Number 15

- The **1** is in the tens place, which means **1 ten** (or **10**).
- The **5** is in the ones place, which means **5 ones**.

So, **15** is the same as **10 + 5**.

Using Base Ten Blocks

Base ten blocks help visualize place value:

- **Cubes** represent **ones**.
- **Rods** represent groups of **tens**.

For instance, if we use blocks to represent the number **53**:

- You would use **5 rods** (each rod is **10**) to show **50**.
- You would use **3 cubes** to show **3 ones**.

Breaking Down Numbers

We can break down numbers into tens and ones to understand their place value.

For example:

- **64** is made of **6 tens** (60) and **4 ones**.
- **89** is made of **8 tens** (80) and **9 ones**.

Why Place Value Matters

Understanding place value helps us:

1. Know the size of numbers.
2. Add and subtract numbers easily.
3. Understand the importance of tens and ones in real-world problems.

Practice

Let's break down some numbers:

- In **23**, the 2 represents **two tens**, and the 3 represents **three ones**.
- In **71**, the 7 represents **seven tens**, and the 1 represents **one one**.

Conclusion

Place value is key to understanding how numbers work! It helps us see how tens and ones make up larger numbers and prepares us for more advanced math concepts like adding, subtracting, and comparing numbers.