

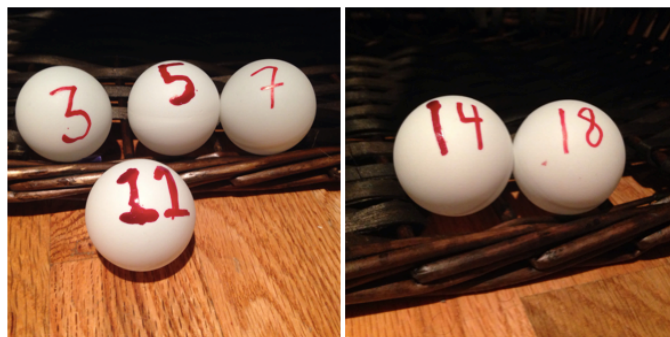
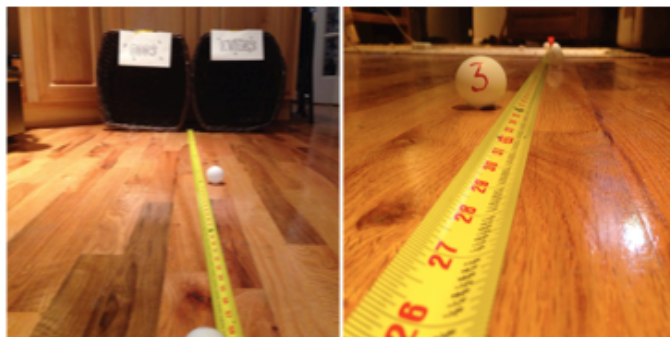


Swashbucklin' Sums

Part I: Swab Ye Deck

You will need: 10 ping-pong balls, markers, tape measure, white paper, scotch tape, stopwatch, a broom, and 2 empty trash cans, baskets, or buckets.

- ★ Position the bins on their sides next to each other. Use paper and tape to label one bin “evens” and the other “odds.”
- ★ Toss 10 ping-pong balls in the air, then measure their distance from the front of the bins.
- ★ Label each ball with the number of feet it lies from the bins - this is their point value.
- ★ Also mark each ball's position with a small piece of tape.
- ★ On “Go!” the first player has 30 seconds to sweep the ping-pong balls into the correct bins.
- ★ Tally the first player's score, then return the balls to their spots so the second player can choose from the same field.
- ★ Which strategy works best - going for a few long balls or getting a whole pile of the closer ones?
- ★ Can you divide your score by 30 to find out how many points you earned per second? What would dividing your score by 10 tell you?



Bedtime Math is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to making math as fun as dessert. Check out www.bedtimemath.org for more free math fun!

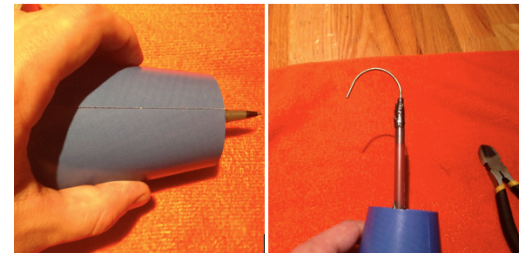
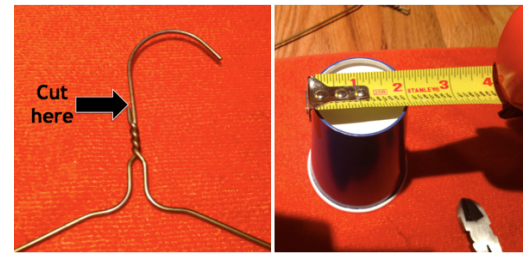


Swashbucklin' Sums

Part 2: Hooked

You will need: Coat hanger, pen, stopwatch, paper cup, large bowl, pretzels (in the traditional shape), masking tape, and diagonal pliers, a.k.a. wire cutters.

- ★ PARENTS: First wash the coat hanger thoroughly with dish soap. Secure the coat hanger below its hook between the pliers. Squeeze tightly and turn the base of the hanger to help remove the hook. Wrap the hook's point with masking tape for safety.
- ★ KIDS & PARENTS: measure the bottom of your paper cup and find its center. Poke a small hole at the center using the pen.
- ★ Now push the pen through the hole from the opposite side - the top of the cup. Remove the tip and ink cartridge of the pen, if possible.
- ★ Tape the coat hook inside or to the side of the pen. Now you've got a real hook!
- ★ Look at how tall your hook is - how many pretzels do you think can fit on there?
- ★ Find out! Count by 2s as you stack the pretzels.
- ★ Does your guess change after you've slid 4 or 8 or 12 pretzels onto the hook?
- ★ Now, do you think you can hook that many pretzels from a bowl? What if you only have 60 seconds to do it?
- ★ Find out! Hook the pretzels as quickly as you can without breaking them.
- ★ How many pretzels did you get in 1 minute? How many do you think you could get in 5 minutes?
- ★ How many pretzels can you snag with one scoop?
- ★ You can snack when you're finished, but DON'T eat the pretzels directly off your hook!



Bedtime Math is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to making math as fun as dessert. Check out www.bedtimemath.org for more free math fun!

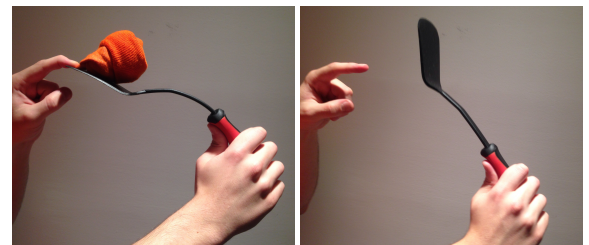


Swashbucklin' Sums

Part 3: The New Planking Craze

You will need: Several pairs of socks, 3 or 4 stuffed animals, plastic spatula, pillow, tape measure, a blue blanket or sheet, and masking tape.

- ★ Position a pillow as your boat in a hallway. Build a 5-foot plank out of tape, and mark each foot with a line of tape to make 5 squares!
- ★ Now place an ocean at the end of the plank by arranging a blue blanket or sheet on the floor.
- ★ Scatter stuffed animals on the ocean - you can give land animals a raft or shoe canoe so they don't have to tread water the whole time.
- ★ Stand on the boat and fling a sock "burger" off the spatula to the hungry beast of your choice.
- ★ How does the sock's flight path change if you bend the spatula back farther? What if you point it at the ceiling?
- ★ If your burger lands near the beast, then stay put. If you miss, then take 1 step forward.
- ★ Measure to find out if an animal can eat each burger - our pirate monkey had foot-long arms, so it reached the orange burger (pictured).
- ★ Continue flinging burgers and taking steps for misfires until you run out of burgers or feet of plank to stand on.
- ★ How many animals did you feed? How many burgers went uneaten?
- ★ How would the game change if you started at the sea animal end of the plank and took a step backwards for each burger flip you missed?



Bedtime Math is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to making math as fun as dessert. Check out www.bedtimemath.org for more free math fun!