INTERPRETATIONS OF MULTIPLICATION

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There exist several interpretations and methods of multiplication that is used during middle years of schooling. Multiplication can involve the following: repeated addition; grouping; number line hopping; number line stretching or compressing; folding and layering; branching; making grids or rectangular arrays; area, volume and dimension; steady rise (slope); and proportional reasoning. These concepts are used throughout the curriculum from grade R-12. As prospective teachers, it is good practice to explain these concepts by making use of different teaching tools. These tools will help learners to get a better understanding of multiplication.

The different interpretations of multiplication can be applied in a classroom through creative and innovative activities. A poster is one way where content can be displayed in a creative way. Well constructed and colourful illustrations on a poster will get learners actively involved in their own learning process. Step by step solutions will also help learners to grasp the work, before completing activities. Our poster is thus a display of different interpretations of multiplication with explanations, examples, pictures and graphs to illustrate each multiplication idea. The poster not only shows how learners are able to complete the given activities that are displayed on the poster, but it also shows how learners are able to create their own problems and solutions. Learners can write these problems and solutions on the poster.

The interactive poster is an ideal way of getting learners involved in doing mathematics and also to challenge learners' thinking. Each multiplication idea can be discussed separately or can be integrated with other topics that are also displayed on the poster. The poster enables the teacher to have a good introduction to new concepts, with explanations, exercises and room for improvising supporting the lesson. The poster also allows the teacher to adapt according to the learners abilities. Teachers can determine the level of difficulty and according to their observations, they can write their own questions on the poster.

REFERENCES

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