



FAMILY MATH NEWSLETTER INTERMEDIATE EDITION



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Problem Solving: Groundhogs Day

"Groundhog Day is celebrated in Canada and the United States every year on 2 February. Legend has it that watching a groundhog emerge from its burrow can determine the weather forecast for the coming weeks. Accordingly, if it is a sunny day and the groundhog sees its shadow, it goes back to sleep for six more weeks of winter. If the weather is cloudy and the groundhog does not see its shadow, it stays outside, meaning that the worst of winter is over and spring will soon arrive."
(Source: [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#))

- How accurate is Wiarton Willy?
- What information would you need to determine this?

Check out this website for some more data: [All Groundhogs](#)

Game: Give Some Percent

Try [this card game](#) to develop your skills working with division and percentages.



Math Talk

- How many chocolates are in this tray?
- How many chocolates would we have if there were 3 of these trays
- How many of those chocolates would be heart-shaped?

How to Support Your Childs Math Learning at Home



Did you know there are many ways you can support your child with their math learning at home? The [Grade 9 math: a guide for parents](#) outlines many helpful strategies, including:

- Find ways to incorporate math into everyday activities at home (for example, making goals to save, Calculating discounts and interest payments, or predicting travel time)
- Talk with your child about their strengths, interests, education and career goals
- Help your child make connections between what they learn in school, their interests and the courses they choose to take.
- Talk with your child about career opportunities that rely on math skills.
- Ask your child's teacher, guidance counsellor or other school staff questions about skills and experiences required to help your child, as well as the supports that are available along the way.
- Stay informed about your child's learning and stay in touch with their school and teachers.

Math in the Workplace: Carpenters

What do they do?

Carpenters are one of the most versatile construction occupations, with workers usually doing many different tasks. For example, some carpenters insulate office buildings; others install drywall or kitchen cabinets in homes. Those who help construct tall buildings or bridges often install the wooden concrete forms for cement footings or pillars. Some carpenters erect shoring and scaffolding for buildings. Carpenters use many different hand and power tools to cut and shape wood, plastic, fiberglass, or drywall. They commonly use hand tools, including squares, levels, and chisels, as well as many power tools, such as sanders, circular saws, nail guns, and welding machines. Carpenters fasten materials together with nails, screws, staples, and adhesives, and do a final check of their work to ensure accuracy. They use a tape measure on nearly every project because proper measuring increases productivity, reduces waste, and ensures that the pieces being cut are the proper size.

Try this!

Tube forms are used to form concrete columns. The concrete is mixed at a ratio of 2.5 litres of water per bag of concrete mix. Calculate the amount of water needed for a 15-foot column with a diameter of 8 inches.

POSTS (standard fence)		2.5 x = 1 Post
CONCRETE SLAB		5 x = 6 sq.ft.
TUBE FORMS (for each 4' length)		5.5 x = 10' Diameter 3.5 x = 8' Diameter

Looking for more? Check out the [Trades Math Workbook](#), where this question, and more, can be found.