

What is the question (1st and 2nd Class)

- Resources:** A variety of concrete resources to support addition and subtraction
- Strands:** Addition, subtraction, algebra
- Activity:** Give pupils any number between one and ten, for example, 6. Explain that '6' is the answer but you do not know what the question is. Ask pupils what the question might have been if it was an addition question? What if it was a subtraction question? Give pupils the opportunity to come up with lots of different possibilities for what the question might have been using different operations.

- Questions:** What other addition question might it be?
What subtraction question might it be?
Can you think of another one?

Challenge Questions:

- Have you found all possibilities? How do you know?
- Can you find all possibilities if all the numbers used in the question were less than 20?

Variations:

1. What might the sum be if one of the numbers was odd? Is it possible? Why not?
2. What might the subtraction question be if the two numbers were even?