

What's the question? (5th and 6th Class)

- Resources:** A variety of concrete resources to support pupils
- Strands:** Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals
- 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? How about a multiplication or division 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 multiplication 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?

Teacher's note:

This is an open activity where there are an infinite number of answers that pupils can give. Explore how all pupils can achieve at this task by using any of the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Encourage pupils to use fractions, decimals and negative numbers with the operations.