

Digging deep (3rd and 4th Class)

Resources: A variety of concrete resources to support pupils

Strands: Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

Activity: Give this problem to students and allow them time to explore how they need to solve the problem. Use the questions below as prompts if they are unsure what to do next. Display the problem and read it aloud: A snail falls into a well that is 12 m deep. Every day he climbs up 2 m but each night he slips back down 1 m. How long will it take the snail to crawl out of the well?

Questions: At the end of the first day how far had the snail climbed?

What about at the end of the second day?

On what day was the snail half way out of the well?

Challenge Questions:

Could you write down what you did using an equation?

What distance did the snail travel in total? (Remember to add the amount he slipped as well!)

Variations:

Change the measurements, for example, to 30 m deep, he climbs 3m each day and slips 2 m, how long will it take him now to crawl out of the well?