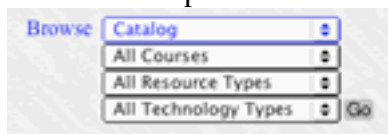


Navigating Math Tools: <http://mathforum.org/mathtools/>

MathTools is a *Digital Library* of math resources to help teachers teach and students learn in K-12 mathematics. The MathTools site has two major features: a catalog and a discussion forum. Above all else, Math Tools is a community of users which includes students, teachers, mathematicians, researchers, and software developers. Users are encouraged to register in order to take advantage of the special features only available to registered users. Registration is free.

The Catalog

To browse the catalog, choose from the drop down menus at the top right of the page.



- Ensure Browse “Catalog” is selected in the first drop down menu.
- Choose the grade level or course name for materials you wish to browse in the “All Courses” drop down menu. Submenus will appear where you can continue to narrow down your search based on the specific math topics available for that course. It is not necessary to select from the submenus though if you wish to keep your search more general.
- Choose from “Resource Type” and “Technology Type” drop down menus if you have a preference in these categories: Tools, Lesson Plan, Stories, Activities, Technology Problems of the Week, Support Materials.
- Click on “Go” to get the results of your selections which will produce the *Search Results* page. Below is a partial result from selecting, Math 6 --> Operations with Numbers (course), Tools (resource type), and Java Applet (technology type).

Search Results page screen shot

Resource Name	Topic (Course)▲	Technology	Type	S?	Rating
Base Blocks	Addition (Math 6)	Java Applet	Tool		★★★★☆ [2]
Base Blocks Addition	Addition (Math 6)	Java Applet	Tool		★★★★★ [2]
Circle 0	Addition (Math 6)	Java Applet	Tool		★★★★☆ [2]
Circle 21	Addition (Math 6)	Java Applet	Tool		★★★☆☆ [1]
Circle 99	Addition (Math 6)	Java Applet	Tool		☆☆☆☆☆ [0]

Notice the column labeled *Resource Name*. The links in this column will direct you to the resource. Notice the links on the right beside the stars that appear as numbers. The stars represent the average user rating of that resource and the numbers represent how many registered users have rated that resource.

From the *Search Results* page, clicking on the link that is the number will take you to that particular resource *Card Catalog* page in the MathTools site. The *Card Catalog* page

1. details more information about that particular resource.
2. provides a screen shot of the resource.
3. links to the resource.
4. allows registered users to save the resource in their own account.
5. allows registered users to rate that resource.
6. links to related Discussions on that resource.
7. links to other materials related to that resource.

A screen shot of a sample *Card Catalog* page is shown below.

Card Catalog page screen shot

Tool: Base Blocks

Go to: http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/frames_asid_152_g_3_t_2.html (opens a new window)

Description: Illustrate addition and subtraction in a variety of bases.

Technology Type: Java Applet

Guide: [User's Guide](#) (opens a new window)

Author: National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (Utah State University)

Language: English

Cost: Does not require payment for use



Average Rating: ★★★★★ [2]

[Login](#) to rate this resource

My MathTools: [Login](#) to Subscribe / Save This

Reviews: [be the first to review this resource](#)

Discussions: [see the 1 post discussing this resource](#)

Tools: [Base Blocks Decimals](#)
[Base Blocks Subtraction](#)
[Base Blocks Addition](#)
[Chip Abacus](#)

Saving and rating resources will be discussed in later sections.

The Discussion Forum

The Discussion section of MathTools allows registered users to discuss topics with other in-service teachers, pre-service teachers, educators, administrators, parents and those interested in mathematics education across the U.S. and potentially international persons as well.

To view the discussions, click on the [Discussions](#) link in the light blue navigation box. It is not necessary to register or login to read the posted discussions. This will list all ongoing discussions in order from the latest post.

- To view a particular discussion thread, simply click on the link of the topic of interest or click on the small blue triangle to the left of the discussion title.
- A list of all replies to that discussion thread will appear in ascending order from the first post to the most recent.
- View the content of the posts sequentially by again clicking on the first link (the first post to that thread) read the post and click on the [next message](#) link to view the next reply to that initial post.
- At any time you can navigate back out to see the list of all posts to that thread by clicking on the [see all messages in this topic](#) link.

Only registered users may post on the discussion. Once registered and logged in to the site, you may post a new topic to the Discussion Forum by clicking on the “Post a new topic to [any discussion](#)” link and filling out the subsequent form (see the *Register* section for info on how to register). To post to one of the ongoing discussions, click on the link to the discussion for which you wish to add your comments.

- You will see a list of all posts with links to the text of those posts. Click on the link of the post to which you wish to respond. The text of that post will load on screen.
- After the text of the message there is a “Reply” button as well as a pair of radio buttons “yes” and “no”. If you wish to have the text of the message currently on screen in your message (so others who read your message can directly see to what comments you are responding) ensure the “yes” button is selected. Otherwise, select the “no” button and then click on “Reply.”
- Fill out the subsequent form with your comments and click the “submit” button. You can choose to change the subject line or keep the one that is supplied.

Registration and Login

There are several useful features only available to registered users of MathTools: ability to post to discussions, ability to save searches and specific items in order to keep track of those items, and ability to locate and keep a “Friends” list of other users. In order to register, click on the [Register](#) link in the dark blue box on the left hand side of the screen and complete the subsequent form. A screen shot of the form is shown below.

- The radio buttons to the right with columns labeled “public” and “private” determine if other users can access that information about you. If you are unsure, we recommend you keep your information “private” as any other registered member of MathTools can view this information if it is marked as “public”.
- Choose a nickname. Your nickname will appear as your username when you login and will be viewable by other users. (Note there is no “public” or “private” choice on the nickname row as the nickname is used to identify your contributions and is viewable by all users of MathTools.) It is best to choose a nickname such as your first name only or another unique fun name. We suggest you do NOT use your full first and last name.

- Be sure to use a correct email address and a password that you will remember as you will use your email address and password to login to the site. This information is case sensitive so also be sure to note the use of upper and lower case letters. You need to type your password twice to verify what you initially type is indeed what you believe it to be.
- Other optional choices you can check or leave blank to your discretion.
- Click on the “submit” button to register. Note that you will be able to edit many of these fields later. Fields you CANNOT edit later include your name, your nickname or your email address.
- Once you register you will automatically be logged in to the site after several seconds.
- In order to log in when you bring up the site, click the “log in” link inside the dark blue box and fill in your email address and password.

Registration Page screen shot

*Denotes required field

1 Name		Public	Private
* Name ² :	<input type="text" value="Bethany Hudnutt"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Nickname ² :	<input type="text" value="Bethany"/>		
2 Contact		Public	Private
* Email ² :	<input type="text" value="bhudnutt@shodor.org"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
3 Affiliation		Public	Private
Institution ² :	<input type="text" value="Shodor Education Foundation"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department ² :	<input type="text" value="Project Interactivate"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Password			
Your email address will be used as your login. Please choose your password.			
* Password ² :	<input type="password" value="*****"/>		
* Verify Password ² :	<input type="password" value="*****"/>		
5 Subscribe (optional)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I want to receive the monthly newsletter		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to receive discussion messages as email		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I want to be notified of activity in the Research Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to be notified of activity in the Developers Area		
6 Contribute (optional)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to be a facilitator		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I want to contribute		
		<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>

Saving Resources

Once you are logged in click on the link to [My Math Tools](#) in the dark blue box. Note this link ONLY appears once you are logged in. This is your personal space where you can find your saved items and edit your profile. In order to save a resource in the *My Math Tools* space, conduct a search and navigate to that resource's *Card Catalog* page as described in the *Catalog* section above. On that page click on the [Save This](#) link about half way down the page. This will save the item in your personal *My Math Tools* space.

To view your saved items:

- Click on the [My Math Tools](#) link in the dark blue box.
- Click on the [Saved Items](#) link and there is a list of any items you have saved.
- To delete a saved item, click on the check box next to the saved item you wish to delete and then click on the “Delete Checked Items” button.
- In order to access that item, click on the link of that resource and it will take you to that resource's *Card Catalog* page.

Rating Resources

As a registered user you have the power to rate resources. In order to rate a resource:

- Navigate to the resource's *Card Catalog* page either by searching or clicking on the link to the resources from your *Saved Items* list.
- About half way down the page in red is the text **My Rating**. Next to the text are five stars. To rate the resource as five stars, click on the fifth star. To rate the resource with four stars, click on the fourth star, etc. Then click on the “Submit Rating” button.