Developing a Strong Foundation

The instructional strategies in Primary Mathematics were created based on global research and best practices on how students develop understanding from an early age. The consistent use of the Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach and powerful visual models across chapters and grade levels help students to connect ideas and build upon their mathematical understanding. As students engage with these models, they develop a strong foundation that ensures successful progress to mastery.

The Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract Approach

The Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach allows students to "see" and make sense of abstract mathematical concepts.

In the CONCRETE stage, students use physical objects, or math manipulatives, to explore a new concept.



In the PICTORIAL stage, students see the same mathematical concepts represented in diagrams or visual models. They learn that models are strategic representations to understand quantities and relationships between numbers.

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In the ABSTRACT stage, students connect their concrete and pictorial representations to abstract mathematical symbols such as numbers and operations.



Primary Mathematics includes point-of-use instruction in the Teacher's Guide to aid in the use of the Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach. Visual models and manipulatives are clearly described in the Chapter Overview. The Chapter Progression lists visuals of each stage for every lesson in the chapter.



Visualization Through Pictorial Models

Powerful visual models are hallmarks of the Singapore Math [®] approach. These models help students visualize and understand abstract mathematical concepts. Working with the Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach, students consistently use these models across grade levels to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Number Bonds



Place Value Charts



Bar Models



Ten Frames



Number Lines



Fraction Models



PRIMARY MATHEMATICS

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