Addition

Changing Position of the numbers

Description

Students will explore whether changing the position of numbers in a mathematical addition equation affects the result. The teacher assigns two students to use different unpitched percussion instruments. Each student is given a secret number and must tap or 'play' the given number on the instrument. The students then count and find the answer using a specific procedure. First, they count the times that student A taps and write the number. Next, they count and write the second number. On the third time, they count all the sounds from the first student tapping to the second and find the answer.

The teacher then instructs the students who tapped the numbers to switch positions and tap their numbers again. Simultaneously, the rest of the students repeat the procedure and determine if the result has changed.

Ideas to use:

In order to make this activity more fun, you can ask the students to close their eyes so they don't see what exactly is done when teacher asks the students to change positions.

