Carry Collector

Grade 5/6 Math | Adding to millions and billions | Teacher notes

BC Math 5: addition and subtraction of whole numbers to 1 000 000.
BC Math 6: small to large numbers (thousandths to billions): place value and operations with thousandths to billions.
Both: Computational fluency develops from a strong sense of number. Learn through play.

Levels at a glance

Mat	Who	Numbers	Cards per round	Points per round
Thousands	Warm-up for everyone	3-digit + 3-digit	6	up to 5
Millions	Grade 5	6-digit + 6-digit	12	up to 8
Billions	Grade 6	9-digit + 9-digit	18	up to 11

You need (per group of 2 or 3)

- 1 set of 40 digit cards (the 2 Digit Cards pages, on cardstock), or a deck of cards: Ace = 1, 10 = 0, remove J, Q, K
- 1 mat per player, and a pencil
- Optional: sheet protectors and dry-erase markers

How it works

- One flip, everyone writes: all players use the same digit, so no one waits.
- Placement is the strategy: big digits stacked in one column make carries.
- Wrong answer = 0 points, so checking matters.

Teach it (about 15 min before groups play)

- **I do:** play one Thousands round on the projector game. Think aloud: "Where should this 8 go?"
- **We do:** class vs robot on the projector, Millions mat. Students vote on each box.
- **You do:** groups play 2 or 3 rounds. Gr 5: Millions. Gr 6: Billions. Start anyone unsure on Thousands.

Look-fors while you circulate

- Starts at the ones and lines up columns
- Writes the carry in the star, never 2 digits in one box
- Adds the carried 1 to the next column
- Reads the answer by periods ("1 billion, 245 million...")

Debrief questions

- Where did you put your 9s? Why?
- What makes a carry happen?
- Can a carry make another carry? Show us.
- What is the 1 in the crown box worth?

Easier
Thousands mat, or roll one regular die (digits 1 to 6). Pair a strong reader with each group.

Challenge
Fewest points wins: avoid carries! Or play Billions and read every answer aloud.

Checking
Partners re-add. A calculator is for checking only, after the round.

Carry Collector: How to Play

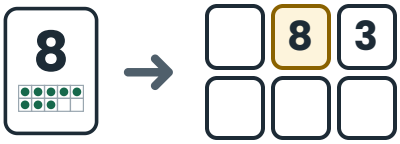
Make carries. Collect stars. Win!

👥 2 or 3 players | 5 Digit cards | 📝 1 mat each | ✏️ Pencil

1 FLIP

Flip 1 card. Say the number.
Everyone uses it.

2 WRITE



Write it in any empty box.
It stays there!
Keep flipping until every box is full.

3 ADD

Start on the right. 10 or more?
Carry the 1 to a ☆

4 SCORE

☆ = 1 👑 = 3

Example: 2 ☆ + 1 👑 = 5 points

Swap mats and check.
Wrong answer? Fix it. 0 points.

🔄 New round = new flipper 🏆 3 rounds. Most points wins!

🗣️ **Read your answer: say each period, then its name**

1 245 052 222

1 billion, 245 million, 52 thousand, 222

Think! Where will a 9 make a carry?

Think! Can one carry make another carry?

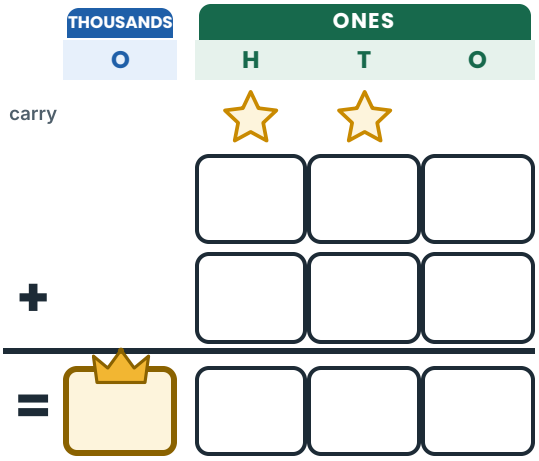
Carry Collector: Thousands

Warm-up for everyone | 6 cards each round | up to 5 points a round

5 8

Name: Partners: Date:

1. Flip a card. Everyone uses it.
2. Write it in any box. It stays!
3. Add. Carry the 1 to a ☆
4. Check. ☆ = 1 point, 👑 = 3 points



Round 1

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points ☐

Checked by _____

Round 2

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points ☐

Checked by _____

Round 3

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points ☐

Checked by _____

Round 1 _____ **+ Round 2** _____ **+ Round 3** _____ **= Total** _____

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Carry Collector: Millions

Grade 5 | 12 cards each round | up to 8 points a round

Name: Partners: Date:

1. Flip a card. Everyone uses it.
2. Write it in any box. It stays!
3. Add. Carry the 1 to a ☆
4. Check. ☆ = 1 point, 👑 = 3 points

Round 1

MILLIONS	THOUSANDS			ONES		
O	H	T	O	H	T	O
carry	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	
+						
= 👑						

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points ☐

Checked by _____

Round 2

MILLIONS	THOUSANDS			ONES		
O	H	T	O	H	T	O
carry	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	
+						
= 👑						

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points ☐

Checked by _____

Round 3

MILLIONS	THOUSANDS			ONES		
O	H	T	O	H	T	O
carry	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	
+						
= 👑						

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points ☐

Checked by _____

Round 1 _____ **+ Round 2** _____ **+ Round 3** _____ **= Total** _____

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Carry Collector: Billions

Grade 6 | 18 cards each round | up to 11 points a round

Name: Partners: Date:

1. Flip a card. Everyone uses it.
2. Write it in any box. It stays!
3. Add. Carry the 1 to a ☆
4. Check. ☆ = 1 point, 👑 = 3 points

Round 1

BILLIONS	MILLIONS			THOUSANDS			ONES		
O	H	T	O	H	T	O	H	T	O
carry	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	
+									
= 👑									

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points _____

Checked by _____

Round 2

BILLIONS	MILLIONS			THOUSANDS			ONES		
O	H	T	O	H	T	O	H	T	O
carry	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	
+									
= 👑									

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points _____

Checked by _____

Round 3

BILLIONS	MILLIONS			THOUSANDS			ONES		
O	H	T	O	H	T	O	H	T	O
carry	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	
+									
= 👑									

☆ x 1 = _____

👑 x 3 = _____

Points _____

Checked by _____

Round 1 _____ **+ Round 2** _____ **+ Round 3** _____ **= Total** _____

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Digit Cards (1 of 2)

Cardstock. Cut on the dashed lines. Both pages = 1 group set.

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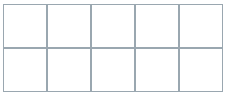	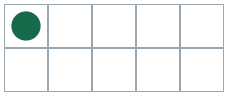	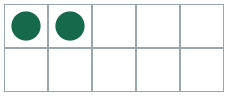	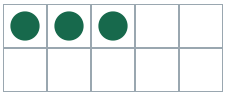
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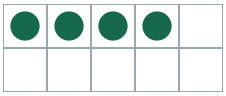	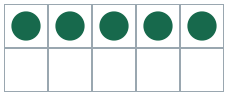	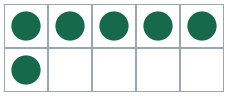	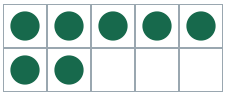
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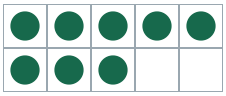	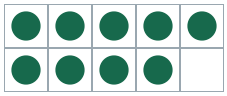	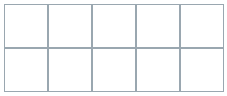	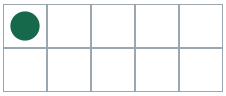
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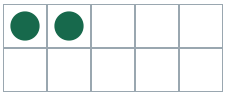	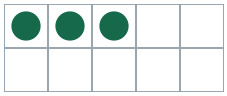	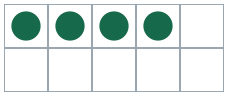	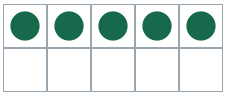
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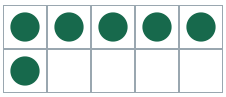
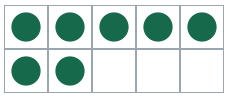
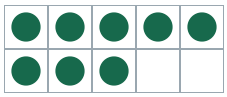
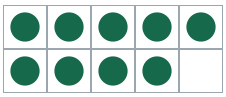
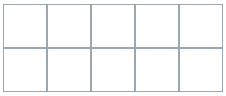
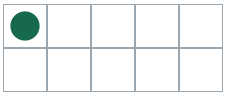
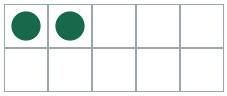
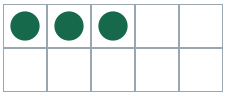
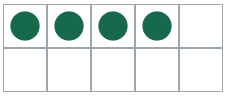
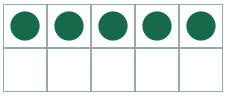
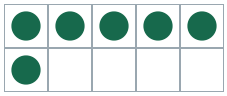
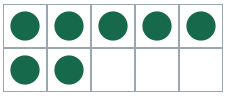
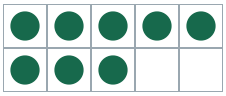
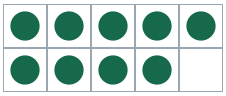
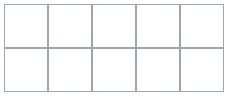
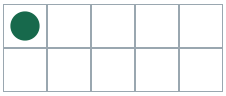
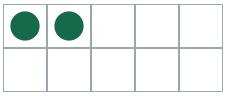
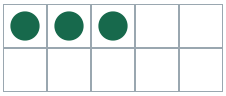
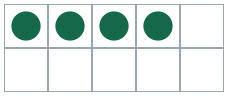
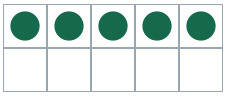
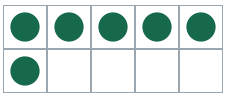
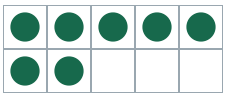
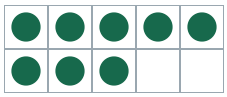
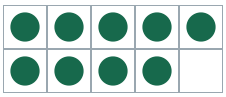
			

Digit Cards (2 of 2)

Cardstock. Cut on the dashed lines. Both pages = 1 group set.

0 	1 	2 	3 
4 	5 	6 	7 
8 	9 	0 	1 
2 	3 	4 	5 
6 	7 	8 	9