

Towers

Mathematics concepts, competencies and strategies:

decomposing and composing quantities, counting, subitizing, mental math strategies, visualizing, parts-whole relationships, addition and subtraction

Materials:

Cubes, two six-sided (1-6) dice

How to play:

1. To play in partners, first student rolls two dice, adds the numbers rolled together and then builds a tower of cubes the same quantity as the sum.
2. Second student rolls the dice, adds the numbers and builds a second tower that is equal to the sum they have rolled.
3. Students compare towers using comparative language such as "My tower is ___ cubes shorter than yours."
4. Students join two towers and use strategies to calculate how many cubes tall their combined tower is.



Other ways to play:

This game could be adapted by building more than two towers or playing with Cuisenaire rods. When using cubes that snap together, one way that students can figure out their total quantity, especially if they have built multiple towers to start, is to break out smaller towers of tens to think about the total quantity in tens and ones.

