120 Straw Subtract

Number of Students: Small groups or pairs

Materials:

- 120 drinking straws per person (bundled into groups of 10)
- Rubber bands or pipe cleaners (for bundling straws with)
- 1 Score Sheet per person
- 1 Spinner 0 – 30 per group
- 1 Spinner 0 – 9 per group
- 1 paperclip per group
- 1 pencil (or whiteboard marker if score sheet laminated) per group

Preparation:

Straws bundled into groups of 10 (can be done by students, particularly through completing the Part-Part-Whole Place Value Straw Bundling activity first)

Photocopy or print sufficient score sheets so that there is one for each person

Photocopy or print sufficient spinner sheets so that there is one or each type for each group

Spinner sheets need to be cut (there are 2 spinners per page)

Both spinner sheets and score sheets can be laminated for longevity, although this is not strictly necessary.

How :

Each student receives 120 straws (as 12 bundles of 10) to begin. Students take turns to spin both spinners, and remove the indicated number of straws from their collection. After spinning both spinners, students must write down the number indicated as a

numeral in the space provided on the score sheet ("Number of Straws Taken Away"). After removing this number of straws from their collection the student must then write a numeral for the number of straws remaining in the "Final Number of Straws" box. The student then writes the equation for the subtraction performed in the space provided.

After three rounds, players check each others' calculations and make sure that the final number matches their remaining collection of straws. The player with the least number of straws after three rounds wins.

Students should be encouraged to note the patterns when counting and removing straws, particularly when the have to 'break a ten' (if they have 81 straws and have to remove 25, for example). When they have gained some confidence with the process, students should also be encouraged to 'guess' the answer before removing the straws, using their 'make to ten' knowledge.