

9 Coronation Maths Activities For Schools

Coronation Fun For KS1 and KS2

Whole school

Introduction to the resource

The King's Coronation provides a great opportunity to engage children in open-ended problem solving and creative maths activities. Celebrate this historical event while linking in with key areas of the maths curriculum with our Coronation activities.

This is a busy time of year, so the resources and preparation for these activities has been kept low. They are all stand-alone activities so you can pick and choose those that would best suit the revision or teaching needs of your class. Alternatively, choose the areas of learning that you know your pupils will love engaging with to celebrate the Coronation!

We've organised the activities into KS1 and KS2 and suggested the year groups for which they are best suited. However, all can be adapted to suit the needs of your class and we've suggested how you can reduce and increase the challenge.

We hope that these teaching resources can play a part in your primary school's celebration of the King's Coronation. Enjoy the bank holiday!

Activity 1: Crown shape description

This is a fun and interactive activity for pupils that gives a rich discussion opportunity to encourage children to name and describe 2D shapes accurately and to describe the position of shapes to enable a partner to build matching crowns.

What you will need:

- Multiple copies of different shapes
- Crown templates
- Scissors
- O Glue
- A4 plain paper

Step by step:

- 1. Show the 2D shapes and review the names and their properties.
- 2. Practise using and describing shapes. This will model the description of shapes and review the mathematical language they will need later in the lesson. For example: "I'm thinking of a shape that has 3 sides, what is it?"
- 3. Show 3 shapes and position them purposefully on the crown template. Ask the pupils how they would describe the positions of the shapes so that someone else could recreate the design on their own crown template.
- 4. Discuss as a whole class and make a phrase bank of important phrases pupils may need later in the lesson. This may include:
 - above
 - below
 - next to
 - on the left
 - on the right
- 5. Give pupils a crown template and a set of shapes. Explain to pupils that you would like them to use 10 of the shapes to create their own, individual crown design and stick them onto the crown template.
- 6. Once pupils have designed their crowns, give a set of cut out shapes and a new crown template. Ask pupils to sit back to back and describe their crown design to their partner. Refer to the phrase bank to support pupils' descriptions. The pupils must then recreate their partner's crown design. Pupils then swap roles.

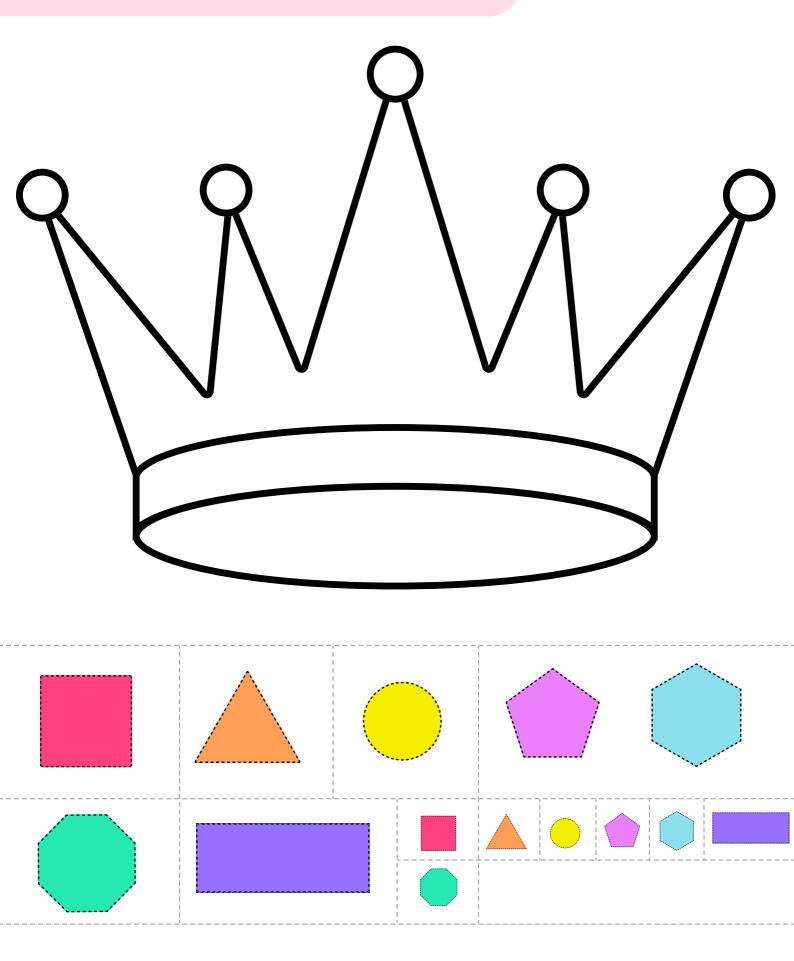
Make it less challenging:

• Give fewer, more simple shapes for pupils to create their design

Make it more challenging:

• Include shapes of varying sizes sizes so that pupils must include this additional information in their descriptions

Activity 1: Crown shape description



Activity 2: Outdoor maths

Hopefully, the sun will be shining this May and you will be able to get outdoors for a memorable activity to celebrate the Coronation. Taking maths outside is a great way to allow pupils to see and think about numbers in a new way and allow them to be really creative. This activity involves finding objects in the school field or playground to represent the date of the King's Coronation.

What you will need:

An outdoor space

Step by step:

- 1. Explain that Charles is to be coronated on 06.05.23.
- 2. Discuss this date. How is the date represented day in the month, month of the year, and the year. Discuss how pupils work out which is the 5th month. Discuss how to read the whole date in words.
- 3. Explain that you are going to set them a challenge. Pupils must find objects outside that represent the date, e.g. they could find 6 leaves, 5 flowers and 23 stones. Pupils can work in small groups or pairs this will encourage purposeful maths talk.
- 4. Pupils then need to arrange these to show the date and photograph it. They need to count carefully to make sure that they have exactly the right number of each object.

Make it less challenging:

• Pupils could find objects to represent the day and the month only.

Make it more challenging:

• Explain that Charles became king the day his mother died, and can they extend the activity to find objects to represent a second date: 10.09.22.

Activity 3: Coronation timeline

Westminster Abbey has been Britain's Coronation church since 1066. King Charles III will be the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned in May 2023.

In this activity, pupils will order the dates of the Coronations that have taken place since 1066 and then mark their positions on a timeline. This will give pupils great practice at comparing and ordering 4 digit numbers, in addition to reading years correctly.

What you will need:

- Timeline cards
- Timeline

Step by step:

- 1. Begin the activity by sharing information about Westminster Abbey and its significance and history. Explain that it has been the building where Kings and Queens have been crowned and this tradition stretches back to 1066. Explain that Charles will be the 40th person to be crowned there.
- 2. Display the 4 most recent Coronations on the board: George VI 1937; Elizabeth 1953; George V 1911; Edward VII 1902.
- 3. Ensure that pupils understand how to read these as years e.g. nineteen twenty, rather than one thousand nine hundred and twenty. Explain that we do this for years as 2 digit numbers are easier to understand and read, so we read the digits in pairs of 2 digit numbers. Practise reading the names on the board as a class.
- 4. Using the 4 years on the board, discuss with pupils how to order the dates from the earliest to the most recent coronation. Discuss looking at the most significant digit in the thousands column and comparing, then the hundreds column, then the tens column and finally, if necessary, the ones column. Discuss and agree the correct order for the 4 cards.
- 5. Display a blank timeline going from 1000 to 2100, marked in 100s. Discuss how to approximate the position of the 4 dates and mark them on.
- 6. Explain that you are going to give them the names and years of the 40 kings and queens crowned at Westminster Abbey. In pairs, pupils are to order the dates and mark them onto a timeline.

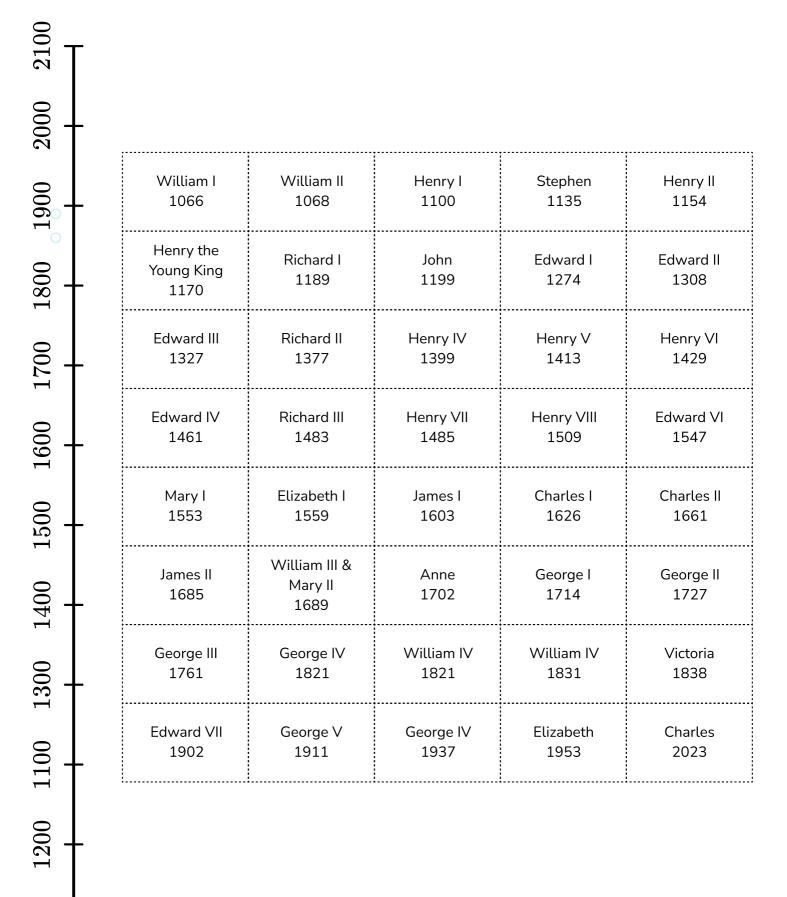
Make it less challenging:

- Give fewer dates to order
- Give a timeline marked in 10s

Make it more challenging:

• Give a blank timeline and pupils should make their own additional divisions.

Activity 3: Coronation timeline



Activity 4: What's the most popular monarch's name?

After completing the previous activity, which explores the kings and queens crowned at Westminster Abbey, pupils may comment on the repetition of names.

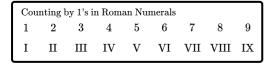
This makes this next activity a great natural follow up that can be cleverly posed as their idea. In this activity, pupils draw a graph to show the most popular names of British monarchs in history.

What you will need:

- Monarch name cards (or you can reuse the timeline cards from the previous activity, if you are planning on completing both)
- Timeline

Step by step:

- If you didn't complete the previous activity before this one, share some information about Westminster Abbey and its significance and history. Explain that it has been the building where Kings and Queens have been crowned and this tradition stretches back to 1066. Explain that Charles will be the 40th person to be crowned there.
- 2. Explain that Charles is in fact the 3rd King to be 'King Charles' and to differentiate him from the other kings of the same name.
- 3. As Roman numerals are used, ensure that pupils understand how to read and use Roman numerals.



- 4. Consider practising this skill with mini whiteboards so that pupils must both read and produce roman numerals.
- 5. Once pupils are confident, show the name cards and ask pupils to write the number that corresponds to the roman numeral, and practise reading it as Charles the third, etc.
- 6. Ask pupils: "Which name do you think is the most common name for a monarch? How can we find this out?"
- 7. Then ask pupils to group the names, so that the cards are organised in stacks on top of each other. If possible in your classroom, you could even draw an x-axis on the desk using a dry-wipe marker and position the cards to create a physical graph on the desk.
- 8. Provide pupils with 1cm squared graph paper. Support pupils in labelling the x and y axis. Pupils must then draw a graph to show the results.

Make it less challenging:

• Instead of drawing their own graph, pupils can make the graph using the cards and can label the axis using dry-wipe markers. Pupils can record their graph by taking a photograph

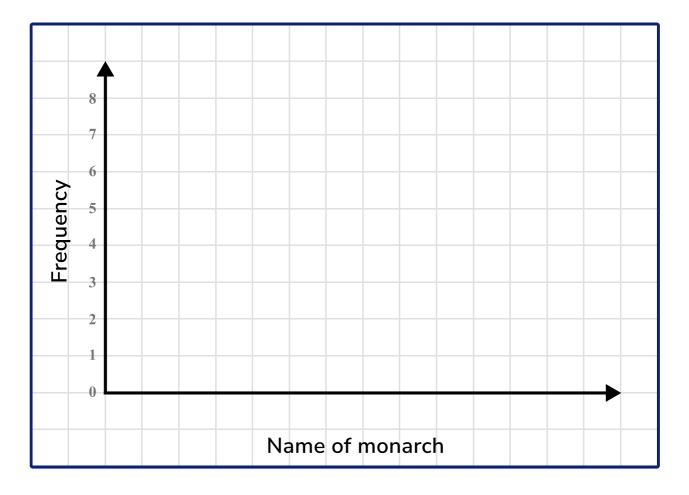
Activity 4: What's the most popular monarch's name?

Making it more challenging:

Ask pupils to write sentences to explain what the graph shows, using sentence stems you provide:

- The graph shows the most common name is....
- The graph shows the least common names are...
- The graph shows that the names ... and ... have an equal number of monarchs with these names.

Activity 4: What's the most popular monarch's name?



William I	William II	Henry I	Stephen	Henry II
Henry the Young King	Richard I	John	Edward I	Edward II
Edward III	Richard II	Henry IV	Henry V	Henry VI
Edward IV	Richard III	Henry VII	Henry VIII	Edward VI
Mary I	Elizabeth I	James I	Charles I	Charles II
James II	William III & Mary II	Anne	George I	George II
George III	George IV	William IV	William IV	Victoria
Edward VII	George V	George IV	Elizabeth	Charles

Activity 5: Flag symmetry

The King is the head of the United Kingdom which includes 4 different countries. Each of these nations has its own flag, as well as the combined flag in the Union Jack. This activity is a great link to the Geography curriculum and it helps reinforce their knowledge of the United Kingdom.

What you will need:

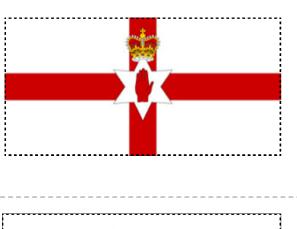
- O Copies of each of the 4 flags for each child
- Large versions of the 4 flags for demonstration
- 1 mirror for each child

Step by step:

- 1. Discuss what symmetry is and how they can use a mirror as 1 technique for finding a line of symmetry, and how folding and careful observations can be a second technique.
- 2. Review some simple shapes and discuss how to identify lines of symmetry in them.
- 3. Give children all 4 flags. Ask them to discuss and share which flag they think will have the least and most lines of symmetry.
- 4. Children should then explore each flag to see if their predictions are correct.

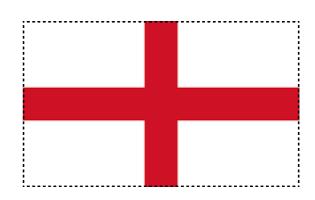
Make it less challenging:

• Give children fewer flags to explore



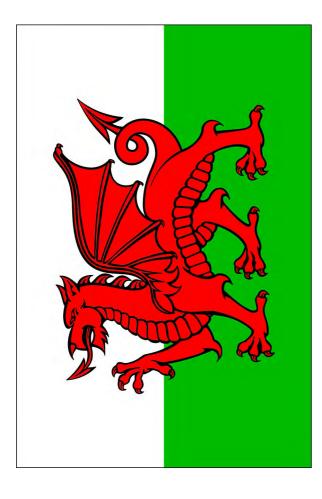






Coronation Maths Activities | Activities for Lower KS2









Activity 6: Coronation coordinates

Coordinates are great fun and this variation on a battleships style game should be exciting and a great way to discuss and use coordinates in an engaging way with your Year 4 pupils. Pupils will decorate their own coordinate grid using items connected to the King's Coronation. Then, they must try to guess the position of their partner's items by calling out coordinates to locate them.

What you will need:

- Coordinates grid 2 per pupil
- O Coordinate pieces (throne, crown, sceptre)
- O Glue

Step by step:

- 1. Show the coordinates grid and mark on positions with a cross. Ask pupils to identify the coordinates.
- 2. Then, call out coordinates and ask pupils to come and mark them on the grid. Discuss as a class whether you agree or disagree with the position and why.
- 3. Introduce the idea of a battleships-style Coronation game by playing as a class. Show the items and explain that you have put them on the grid. Ensure you place them along the lines of the grid, not in the squares as you would in a traditional game of Battleships.
- 4. Ask the class to guess the position of each item by calling out coordinates. If they guess an empty position, you will mark it with a cross. If they guess a position occupied by an object, you will say 'Coronation'.
- 5. When pupils think that they have identified the position of an object, they will say what item it is and where it is to win that object. If they guess incorrectly, they lose the object. Complete the game as a class to model how to play the game.
- 6. Give pupils the objects and ask them to glue them into position onto a coordinate grid.
- 7. Pair or group pupils and hand out blank grids so they can play the game together.

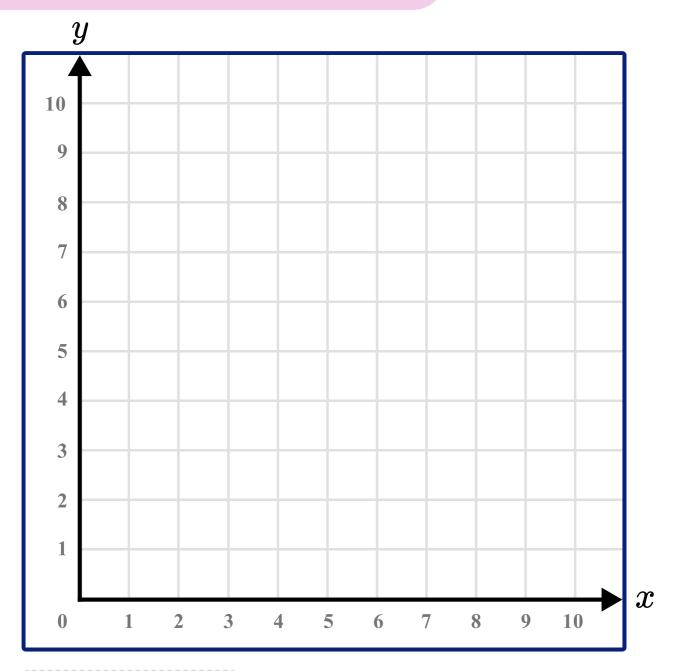
Make it less challenging:

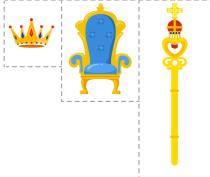
• Give a grid with letters on the y-axis and numbers on the x-axis to help differentiate the parts of the coordinate

Make it more challenging:

• Give a larger coordinates grid and more objects







Activity 7: Simplifying fractions

Supporting children to recognise that fractions are everywhere is really important. Also, helping them to recognise that many things can be a whole – for example, the whole of the King's life! For example, what fraction of the King's life has his grandchildren been alive for?

What you will need:

• Key information cards

Step by step:

- 1. Hand out the key information cards and discuss the Royal Family and the events that have taken place over the King's life. Ask children to order the events from oldest to most recent.
- 2. How long has the King's whole life been? He was born in 1948. Ask pupils to calculate how old he is now.
- 3. Discuss that the key events of his life represent parts of that whole e.g. Prince George was born in 1913. What fraction of his life has Prince George been alive for? 10/74. Can this be simplified? Yes, 5/37.
- 4. What fraction of his life has Prince Edward been alive for? Discuss that it is 58/96. Can this be simplified? Yes, 29/47.
- 5. Explain that simple fractions are considered to have the smallest numerator and denominator. Pose the problem: Which key event in his life produces the simplest fraction?

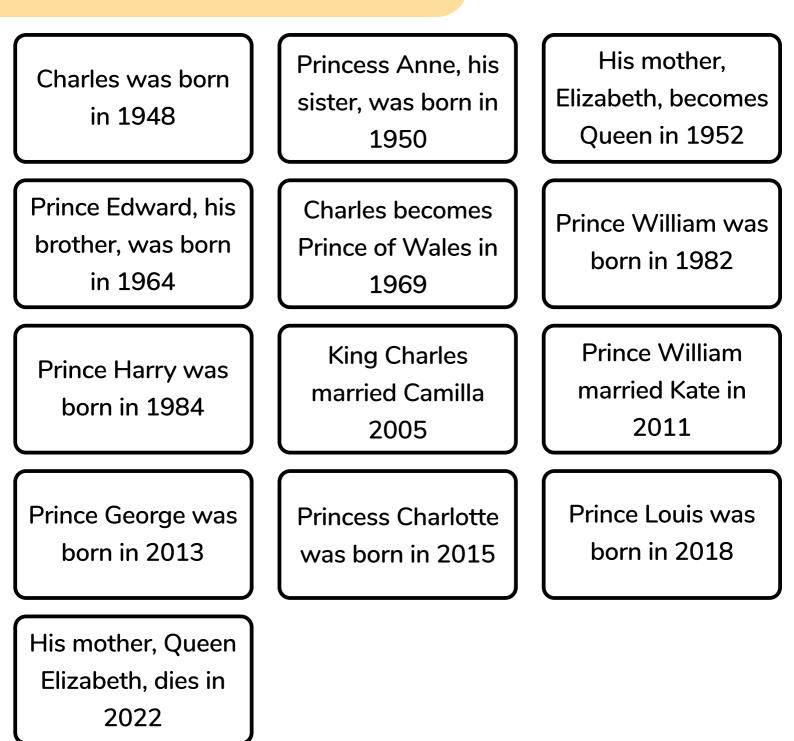
Make it less challenging:

- Provide children with the differences in time to remove the need to calculate this.
- Provide children with a multiplication square.

Make it more challenging:

• What if the whole is the time since he was crowned Prince of Wales in 1952? Do you get a different simplest fraction?

Activity 7: Simplifying fractions



Activity 8: Coronation baking

Up and down the country, bakers will be busy preparing tasty treats for Coronation parties over the long weekend.

Why not give your class the challenge of adjusting a recipe so that the quantities are correct to make a sweet treat to enjoy as part of your school celebrations. If they can tell you the right quantities, you'll go shopping for them... and then you can bake a cake as a class!

Note: If you really do this, you will need to think about how many 9-inch cake tins you'll need to split the mixture (to ensure that it cooks according to the original timing) E.g. if you have 30 children, you'd be better to make enough for 36 and make 3 cakes... because the adults want some too!

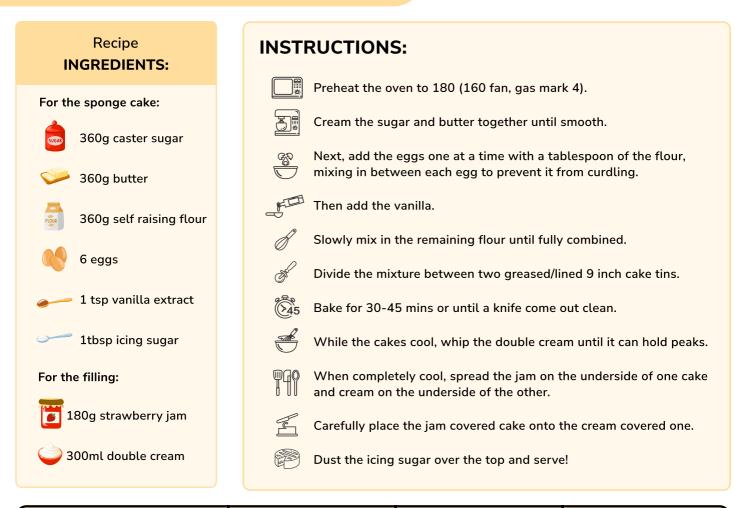
What you will need:

- Copies of the recipe
- O Quantities template worksheet

Step by step:

- 1. Share the recipe card and discuss the quantities for the ingredients to make a Victoria Sandwich Cake. Explain that this is a recipe for 12 slices of cake.
- 2. How much of each ingredient will there be in 1 slice? Discuss how to divide each quantity by 12 to find out how much there will be in each slice of cake. Discuss how to use fractions to reduce the teaspoon quantities e.g. 1/12 tsp for the vanilla extract.
- 3. How much of each ingredient will there be in 24 slices of cake?
- 4. How much of each ingredient will be needed to make a cake big enough for everyone in the class to have a slice of?

Activity 8: Coronation baking



Original ingredients	Quantities for 1 slice	Quantities for 24 slices	Quantities for the class
360g caster sugar			
360g butter			
360g self raising flour			
6 eggs			
1 tsp vanilla extract			
1 tbsp icing sugar			
180g strawberry jam			
300ml double cream			

Activity 9: A date to remember!

Prince Charles will become King Charles on 06.05.2023. This activity can address lots of different areas of mental calculation. It is a naturally open-ended challenge which means that it is easily adjustable to suit learners with a range of differing abilities. For Year 6 pupils, you can include BODMAS.

What you will need:

- 0,6,0,5,2,0,2,3 digit cards
- Four operation cards
- Optional bracket cards
- Optional indices cards

Step by step:

- 1. Display the number the date 06.05.2023. Discuss why this date is important and relate it to the King's Coronation. In this activity, pupils must use the cards provided to make the largest possible answer using all the digit cards, and any of the operation/indices/brackets cards the pupil wants to use.
- 2. Give children the digit cards and explain that they need to use the digit and operation cards to create a number sentence and work out the total.
- 3. Pupils can only use each card once. If your class is familiar with the rules of BODMAS, they could have the optional brackets and indices cards to enable them to build more complex number sentences.
- 4. Give children time to trial ideas for about 10 minutes. After that, stop the children and ask them to share the calculations they've been creating so far. This should help to make sure that anyone who is struggling to get going can see what they could try.
- 5. Children then just need time to get stuck in and spend lots of time trying their ideas and trying to find the largest possible solution.

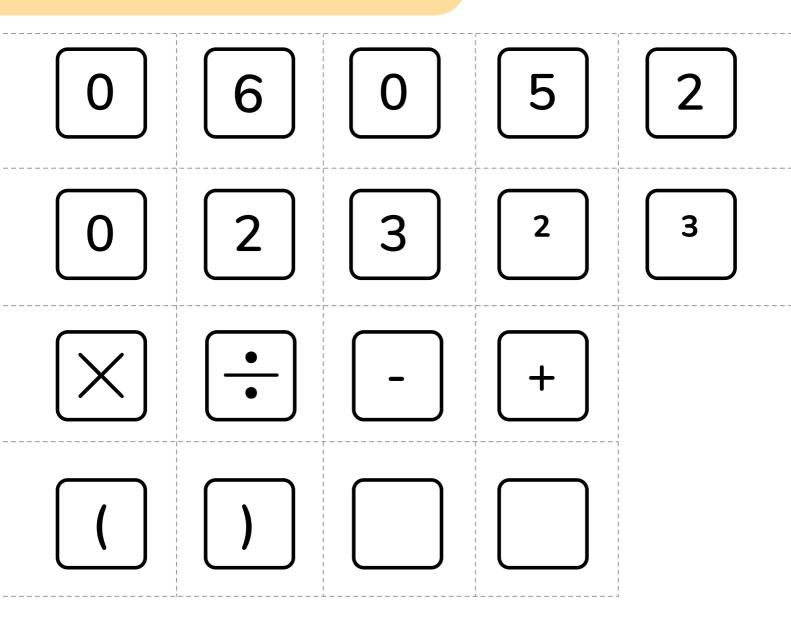
Make it less challenging:

• Children can use more than 1 of each card.

Make it more challenging:

- Can children find the smallest possible solution?
- Can children find a solution which is a negative number?

Activity 9: A date to remember!



Do you have a group of pupils who need a boost in maths this term?

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