

young times

Maths has so many pluses

Thousands of children are leaving school without basic numerical skills, and it all adds up to a big bill for the rest of us, writes

Chloe Lambert

Do you hate maths? Do you find the times table tiresome, and algebra awful? Well, it could cost you — and the whole country — a great deal.

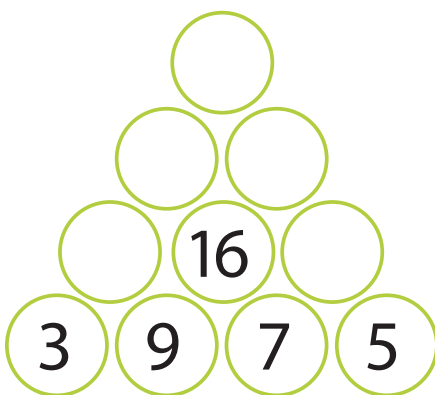
A new report has suggested that British people who lack basic numeracy skills are costing the nation £2.4 billion every year! The charity, Every Child A Chance Trust, says that children who fail to master maths are more likely to play truant and to be excluded from school. Teenagers who leave school without a maths qualification are more likely to turn to crime, or end up unemployed.

The public will be picking up the bill by paying for police, and unemployment benefits with taxes. Every Child A Chance Trust is sending out maths toolkits with games, counters and songs to get young people more excited about numbers. So can maths ever be fun? See whether these fun puzzles can change your mind...

Get the answers at timesonline.co.uk/youngtimes

Add up

If the number in each circle is the sum of the two below it, how quickly can you figure out the top number? Try this one in your head before writing anything down



1,000,000,000
Can you name this number?

What is the smallest number with three different digits?

PUZZLES

Dingbat

Which word or phrase is this? Say what you see

JOOHCS JOOHCS

Yesterday's answer No excuse

Yesterday's conundrum Custard tart

Puzzle of the day: wonder wheel

Write the first letter of each picture in the white space beneath it, so that the wheel, reading clockwise, spells out a tasty drink



Yesterday's answers

1. Sumo
2. Bowls
3. Karate
4. Croquet
5. Gliding

Su Doku

Place a number in each empty square so that each row, each column and each 2x2 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 4

	4	1	
1			2
4			1
	1	2	

The magic number

Think of any number you like. Multiply it by 2. Write your answer here:

Add 12 to the answer:

Take away 3:

Add 5 to the answer:

Divide it by 2:

Take away your original number. What did you get?

Now try a different number. What did you get this time?

Can you add the first 100 numbers together?

Set Square

Place one of the digits from 1 to 9 in each grid to make the sums work. We've put in some of the numbers to start you off. Sums should be solved from the left to right, or from top to bottom

	+	7	-		= 3
+		-		-	
9	+		÷		= 2
-		×		×	
	+		+		= 11
=	=	=			
11	18	18			

Can you count how many teeth you have? The average adult has 32



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