

Make the Target

Grades 6–8 • 15 min • 2+ students

WHAT YOU NEED

- A way to display digits and a target (whiteboard, or the printable kit's pre-made rounds)

SETUP

Split the class into pairs or small teams and give each team scratch paper.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. Write four digits on the board (e.g. 3, 4, 7, 8) and a target number (e.g. 24).
2. Teams have 3 minutes to find a way to combine all four digits — using any mix of $+$, $-$, $\times$, $\div$, and parentheses — to equal the target exactly.
3. When time's up, teams that found a solution share their expression with the class; check it together.
4. Award a point for any correct solution and a bonus point for the most creative one, then reset with a new set of digits.

VARIATIONS

- Lower the difficulty for a struggling class by allowing only $+$, $-$, and $\times$ (no division).
- Raise it for a strong class by requiring exponents or requiring the solution to use every operation at least once across the round.