

FOR SMALL NUMBERS:**1 Deal it out**Problem: $15 \div 3$

Distribute 1's equally into the number of circles you're dividing by – in this case, three. Add 1 at a time to each until you reach 15 1's.



Now count the 1's in each circle to get your answer: 5.

2 Repeated subtractionProblem: $15 \div 3$

Subtract 3 at a time from the dividend – 15 – until you no longer can.

Then count the 3's to get your answer.

In this case, you subtracted 3 five times, so your answer is 5.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 15 \\
 - 3 \\
 \hline
 12 \\
 - 3 \\
 \hline
 9 \\
 - 3 \\
 \hline
 6 \\
 - 3 \\
 \hline
 3 \\
 - 3 \\
 \hline
 0
 \end{array}$$

FOR LARGE NUMBERS:Problem: $595 \div 14$

Begin by picking an easy base number such as 10 to multiply by the divisor, which in this case is 14. Subtract the result from the dividend until you no longer can.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 595 \\
 - 140 \quad (14 \times 10) \\
 \hline
 455 \\
 - 140 \quad (14 \times 10) \\
 \hline
 315 \\
 - 140 \quad (14 \times 10) \\
 \hline
 175 \\
 - 140 \quad (14 \times 10) \\
 \hline
 35 \\
 - 28 \quad (14 \times 2) \\
 \hline
 7 \quad (\text{Remainder})
 \end{array}$$

When 10 becomes too large, switch to a smaller multiplier, such as 2.

Now add the multipliers and combine with your remainder to get your final answer:

$$\begin{aligned}
 10 + 10 + 10 + 10 + 2 \\
 = 42 \text{ R}7
 \end{aligned}$$

Source: Linda Coutts, K-5 mathematics coordinator for Columbia Public Schools