

Rekenrek 101: Pushing Mathematical Understanding with Alexandra Ivy

What is a Rekenrek?

A Rekenrek is a simple yet powerful math manipulative that can be used to teach a wide range of mathematical concepts, from number sense to fractions. It consists of a wooden frame with 10 rows of 10 beads. The beads are arranged in an alternating pattern of red and white, with the red beads representing the digits 0-9 and the white beads representing the digits 10-19.



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by Alexandra Ivy

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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How to Use a Rekenrek

There are endless ways to use a Rekenrek to teach math. Here are a few basic ideas to get you started:

- **Counting:** Children can use the Rekenrek to count to 100. They can also use it to count by 2s, 5s, and 10s.
- **Number sense:** Children can use the Rekenrek to learn about the different ways to represent numbers. For example, they can see that the number 15 can be represented as $10 + 5$, $5 + 10$, or $15 + 0$.
- **Number relationships:** Children can use the Rekenrek to explore the relationships between numbers. For example, they can see that $10 + 5 = 15$, $15 - 5 = 10$, and $15 \div 5 = 3$.
- **Addition and subtraction:** Children can use the Rekenrek to solve addition and subtraction problems. For example, they can use the Rekenrek to solve the problem $10 + 5 = ?$. They can also use the Rekenrek to solve the problem $15 - 5 = ?$.
- **Multiplication and division:** Children can use the Rekenrek to solve multiplication and division problems. For example, they can use the Rekenrek to solve the problem $5 \times 3 = ?$. They can also use the Rekenrek to solve the problem $15 \div 3 = ?$.

- **Fractions:** Children can use the Rekenrek to learn about fractions. For example, they can see that $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10 is 5. They can also use the Rekenrek to solve fraction problems, such as the problem $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = ?$.

Benefits of Using a Rekenrek

There are many benefits to using a Rekenrek to teach math. Here are a few of the most important benefits:

- **Rekenreks are concrete.** This means that children can see and touch the beads, which helps them to understand the concepts they are learning.
- **Rekenreks are manipulative.** This means that children can move the beads around to explore different mathematical concepts.
- **Rekenreks are engaging.** Children love to play with Rekenreks, which makes learning math more fun and enjoyable.
- **Rekenreks are affordable.** Rekenreks are relatively inexpensive, which makes them a great option for schools and families on a budget.

Rekenreks are a valuable tool for teaching math. They can be used to teach a wide range of mathematical concepts, from number sense to fractions. Rekenreks are concrete, manipulative, engaging, and affordable. If you are looking for a way to make learning math more fun and effective, I encourage you to give Rekenreks a try.

About Alexandra Ivy

Alexandra Ivy is a math educator with over 15 years of experience teaching math to children in grades K-5. She is the author of the popular blog, "Math

for Minions," where she shares her ideas for making math fun and engaging for all learners. Alexandra is also a frequent presenter at math conferences and workshops.



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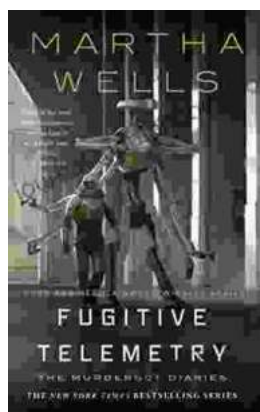
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