Synopsis: This webinar provides an overview of multiplicative thinking, focusing on the different strategies for multiplication and division in the elementary years.

Key Understandings

Multiplicative thinking is:
- A capacity to work flexibly with the concepts, strategies and representations of multiplication and division
- Going beyond memorization of basic arithmetic skills
- The means to communicate multiplicative understanding effectively in a variety of ways

Instructional Practices

- Students benefit from thinking flexibly. They need to see that the Distributive Property is a powerful strategy.
  - 6 x 5 is the same as
    - (3 x 5) + (3 x 5)
    - (2 x 5) + (4 x 5)
    - (2 x 5) + (2 x 5) + (2 x 5)
- Different tools are beneficial to different students:
  - Base Ten Blocks
  - Arrays
  - Number lines
  - Cuisenaire Rods

Questions for Discussion

- Can you find more than one way to multiply 18 and 37?
- How do we help students to better communicate their strategies?

Reflection

- How might you know if your students have a solid understanding of multiplicative thinking?
- What am I already doing in my classroom to support the development of multiplicative thinking?
- What is one strategy I can add to my "classroom toolbox" to support the development of multiplicative thinking?

For more information

- Please visit our online learning guide at: http://learning.arpdc.ab.ca
- Visit your local consortium’s website to view upcoming learning opportunities, or to discuss customized follow-up possibilities.

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