

How Numbers Work



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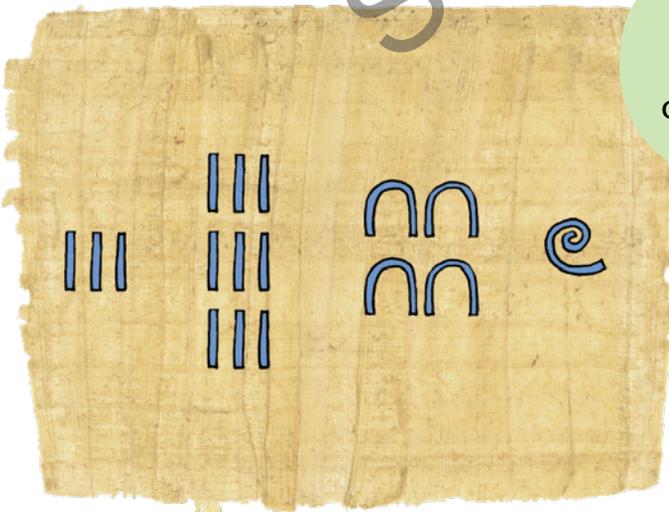
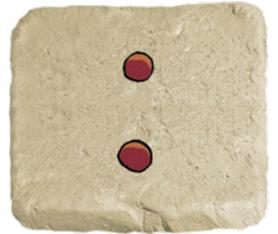
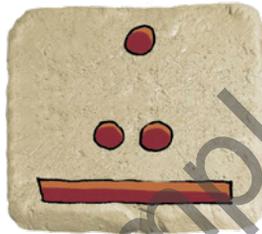
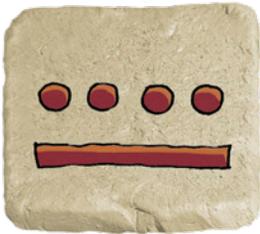
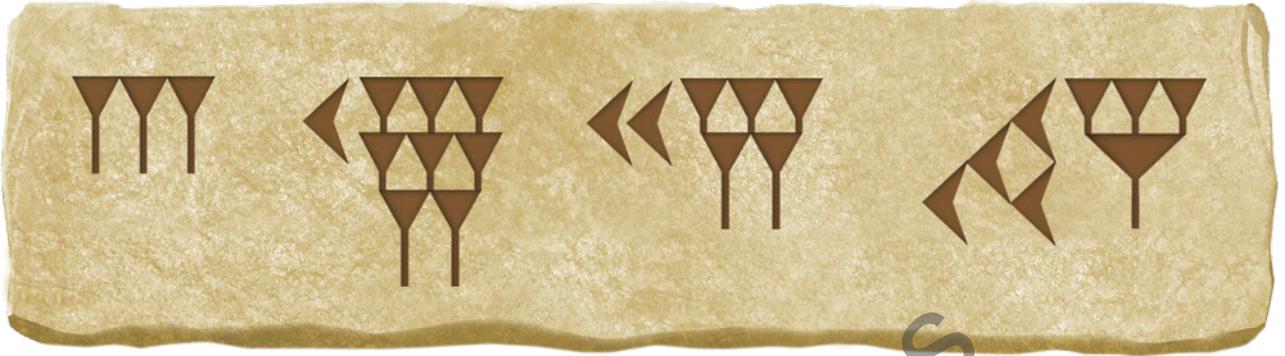
Illustrated by Dave Whamond



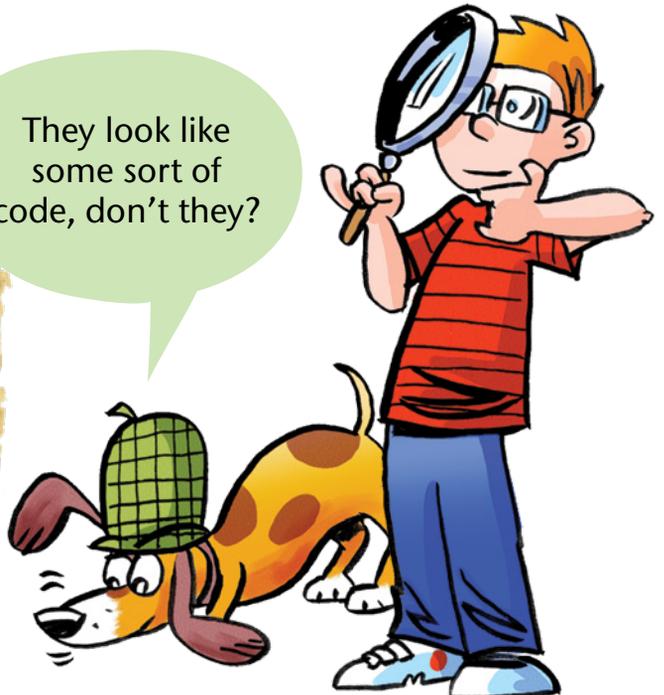
Pearson

Can You Solve the Mystery?

What do you think the pictures below might be?



They look like some sort of code, don't they?



The Babylonian Number System

You were just looking at numbers! Some of the symbols are Babylonian numbers. They were used about 4000 years ago.

Babylonians wrote on pieces of damp clay. They used a pointed wooden rod called a *stylus* to press shapes and lines into the clay.



Babylonian Numbers

Below are the Babylonian symbols for the numbers 1 to 10.

What patterns do you notice in the symbols for 1 to 9?

