

Ten Wand

The Ten Wand is both a visual way for students to understand the number ten, learn ways to compose and decompose ten, and learn about properties of numbers. Fluency with combinations of ten helps students use efficient strategies in computation later on. The routine is from the book Number Sense Routines by Jessica Shumway.

Helps with...	How it Works	Ways to Use the Routine and Questioning Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combinations of ten• Commutative property• Part-part-whole ideas• Ten-structure and five-structure	<p>The Ten Wand is made up of ten Unifix cubes, five of one color and five of a different color. The wand breaks in two pieces at various places (decomposing the ten) to help students see combinations visually.</p>	<p>Use questioning strategies like these when working with the Ten Wand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many on the floor and how many in my hand?• How did you see seven so quickly? How did you know that's seven without counting it?• What is it about the wand that made it easy to see the amount?• If we put the parts back together, how many cubes make up the wand now? Why is it still ten?• So if there are two on the floor, how many more are needed to complete the broken wand?