

Math Magic!

Activity 5 - Seconds, Minutes, Hours & Days

Everyone knows how old they are in years. Some people can even say if they are six-and-a-half, or six-and-a-quarter. But do you know how old you are in days, hours, minutes or seconds?

Imagine being able to tell someone that you are 2,372.5 days old instead of six-and-a-half years old. Or that you are 56,940 hours old. You could even say that you were 3,416,400 minutes old! What about 20,498,400 seconds old! Imagine the look on their faces when they find out just how old they are.

1. Let's work through the example of six-and-a-half years old. Maybe try using a calculator, but if you are a mathemagician, feel free to work it out in your mind!

Take the initial age and multiply it by 365 to get how old you are in days.

Why: we use 365 because that is the number of days in a year.

$$6.5 \times 365 = 2372.5$$

So you are 2,372.5 days old!

2. Take the total from step one and multiply it by 24.

Why: we know that there are 24 hours in a day, so multiplying the number of days by the number of hours will give you your age in hours.

$$2372.5 \times 24 = 56,940$$

So you are 56,940 hours old!

Can you believe THIS is math?

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3. Take the total from above and multiply it by 60.

Why: we use 60 because there are 60 minutes in one hour.

$$56,940 \times 60 = 3,416,400$$

So you are 3,416,400 minutes old!

4. Take the total from above and multiply it by 60.

Why: there are 60 seconds in a minute.

$$3,416,400 \times 60 = 204,984,000$$

So you are 204,984,000 seconds old!

Using these steps, figure out how old you are in seconds, minutes, hours and days.

Bonus: Can you figure out how old you are if you are 756,864,000 seconds old?

Hint: Do the steps in the opposite order and change the operation.

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