| Description: Equivalent names for the number named one |
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| (clip 3 of 4) |
| Parent Tape: Number Line Models and Placing Numbers |
| on the Big Number Line |
| Date: 1993-11-10 |
| Location: Colts Neck Elementary School |
| Researcher: Professor Carolyn Maher |

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| Line | Time | Speaker | Transcription |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1. |  | RT1 | I would like someone to tell me where you would place one. You can talk to <br> your partner if you want too but, I would like you all to think about where you <br> would place one. |  |
| 2. |  | Students | [Student off camera asks which number line.] |  |
| 3. |  | RT1 | On the one Alan made. On Alan's line. |  |
| 4. | Students | [Murmurs off camera] |  |  |
| 5. |  | RT1 | Some of you think we need to make the number line longer. Some of you do not <br> think we need to make the number line longer. Okay. |  |
| 6. |  | Students | [Murmurs] |  |
| 7. |  | RT1 | Also, what reasons you have for why your think so or why not. |  |
| 8. | Students | [Group discussion.] |  |  |
| 9. | Groups | [Mrs. Phillips works with Amy, Jakki and James.] |  |  |
| 10 |  | RT1 | By the way ... if you have worked that one out, I am curious where you would <br> put four-fourths. |  |
| 11 |  | Students | [Group discussion continues. RT1 walks around room.] |  |
| 13 |  | RT5 | [RT1 walks over to Gregory and Danielle] You have a very interesting concept. <br> Why don't you share that- -go ahead. |  |
| 14 |  | Students | [Group discussion continues.] |  |
| 15 |  | RT1 | Where would you put four-fourths Erik and Michael? Where would you put five- <br> hifths? Seven-sevenths? A million-millionths? Are you prepared to argue that |  |


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|  |  |  | position? Michael, why? |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 16 |  | Michael | [Off camera] Because .... |  |
| 17 |  | RT1 | Okay, so you are telling me that that is just another name for one? You want to <br> put those number on the bottom. Remember we agreed you must put the <br> numbers on the bottom. Erik so forcefully told us that people will be confused. <br> Alan had a very nice method. |  |
| 19 |  | RT1 | [Group discussion continues. Students congregate at overhead.] <br> Ok. Are we ready to come back and share our ideas? [Students move back to <br> seats.] I would like all of us to listen to some. We have at least two different <br> positions, here. I think I will give Meredith the first crack at an argument <br> because it was her number line that raised the question to me. And, this is <br> something I am, of course, going to want you to write about-about your <br> arguments and why you think so to see if we can come up with some common <br> understanding of where to place some of these numbers. Are you ready? |  |
| 20 |  | Students | [Room is silent.] |  |
| 21 |  | RT1 | Ok. Meredith, go ahead. |  |


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| 22 | Meredith | You asked me where to place one. I think if you have thirds-one third, two thirds, three thirds - three thirds would be equal to one. See because one third, two thirds, <br> and three thirds <br> -three thirds is the same as saying one. Four fourths is the same as saying one. A hundred hundredths is the same thing as saying one. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 23 | RT1 | What do you think? Michael? |  |
| 24 | Michael | I think that if you have a number with the same number on top as in the bottom, then it is always going to be equal to the number named one. |  |
| 25 | RT1 | Who disagree with that? |  |
| 26 | Students | [Room is silent.] |  |
| 27 | RT1 | Who disagrees with that idea? |  |
| 28 | Students | [Room is silent.] |  |
| 29 | RT1 | Who has a question about that idea? |  |
| 30 | Students | [Room is silent.] |  |
| 31 | RT1 | Jessica you are making a face, are you confused? |  |
| 32 | Jessica | I think, yeah, I agree with her. |  |
| 33 | RT1 | Alan, do you have a comment? |  |
| 34 | Alan | No, what I was saying before when I was talking is that zero to the one third mark is one third. zero to the two thirds mark is two thirds. Zero to the three thirds mark is three thirds. Now, three thirds you cannot have any more thirds or you would have four thirds. Then you have to make the thirds bigger or not have another. You can only have three thirds. |  |

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| 35 |  | RT1 | Okay. Let us hold that question about what would happen if we had four thirds. |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 36 |  | Meredith | You only have four thirds, if you are going to have that you could only have four <br> fourths not four thirds, you can have four thirds. |  |
| 37 |  | RT1 | You cannot have four thirds not in that interval. I wonder if we could have four <br> thirds if we went further? |  |
| 38 |  | Meredith | Then we would have to have six thirds. |  |
| 39 | RT1 | Then, we would have to have six thirds. Ok. Hold on. Meredith just said-I <br> want to make sure you are all able to hear what she just said-I believe she said <br> that you cannot have four thirds in this interval, but I asked the question ... if you <br> extend the interval, could have four thirds? |  |  |
| 40 |  | Meredith | If you made it to two, you would have six thirds, and then you could place four <br> thirds. |  |
| 41 |  | RT1 | If you made it to two, you would have six thirds, and then you could place four <br> thirds. That is a very interesting idea. Bryan, what did you have to say? |  |


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| 42 |  | Brian | Alan thinks that I am placing four thirds and I am not. Because you see, I think <br> that you would start on the negative side. Like umm ... [stands up and walks to <br> overhead] For example, you would probably start on the one third and right <br> between the one third <br> and the two thirds would be one third, right <br> between the two thirds and the three thirds <br> would be two thirds and, you see, he thinks that when I add that there, he thinks <br> that zero to one third is a fraction, it is not. Because zero is a separate number <br> and it is not a fraction, and so I would think that if you start on the one third and <br> anything pass that if you keep going up you would hit two thirds and anything <br> between there would be one third. But if you start at zero and you go across and <br> you hit the one third, zero is not a fraction, so if you add one more, zero between <br> one third is not a fraction, so it would be four thirds. |  |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 43 |  | RT1 | Some people have written zero as zero thirds. <br> Okay. What I was saying before is this ... [Stands up and walks to overhead]. |  |  |
| 44 |  | Alan | RT1 | Let us see what Meredith is doing here. Well, that is very <br> interesting. Very interesting what Meredith is doing up there. |  |
| 45 |  | Alan <br> Okay. What I am saying is that zero to the one third mark-anything from zero to <br> one third-is the one third. Now, anything pass the one third mark we would be <br> calling one third, zero. [Meredith draws arrows on either end of line for the zero <br> to 2 segment.] |  |  |  |
| 47 |  | Brian | See, one third is higher than zero ... |  |  |
| 48 |  | Alan | Right. |  |  |


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| 49 |  | Brian | ... So, you would not count zero to one third as one third. |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 50 | RT1 | Okay. Maybe let us stop for a moment. I know this is very interesting and I <br> know we want to continue this. You want to say something else, Alan? |  |  |
| 51 | Alan | What I am saying is. Here is a model of using thirds. <br> Suppose that end is zero and that end is one. <br> You are saying from there to there-this piece-really has no fraction value in <br> the one third. |  |  |
| 52 |  | Brian | There is no fraction value. |  |
| 53 | Alan | You cannot put that over there, look, is has extra room. You only have three <br> spaces-one, two, three-you have one third from zero to one third, two thirds <br> from one third to two thirds, and three thirds area from two thirds to three thirds. |  |  |
| 54 |  | RT1 | Okay. Let us just hear from Meredith and then I want to do something else. We <br> have lot of good ideas that we need to think about. Meredith, what is your <br> comment? |  |
| 56 |  | RT1 | Weredith I put one third, two thirds, and then three thirds would equal one. And, <br> then, I went from zero to two it would be one and one third, two and <br> two thirds, and, then, one and three thirds. |  |
| 58 |  | Brian | One and two thirds, right? | There is no fraction value between zero and one third, because... |


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| 59 | Brian | [mumbles] What I would think would be that if you start on the lower number <br> and then keep going up and until you hit that. <br> Anything between there would be the one third and the two thirds right <br> there. And, if you keep going up to there you will hit that and, <br> that will be two thirds <br> and if you put a bar right there it would count as one, <br> two thirds between 1 would be three thirds. <br> Because, like I was saying, if you started there at zero, <br> then zero does not have value ... |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 60 | RT1 | Okay. We need to sit down. Obviously, we have not convinced Bryan. Alan and <br> Meredith have tried and not convinced Bryan. I wanted to give Sarah and Beth <br> and Audra a chance to share their idea and if everyone listen a bit more, we will <br> see what we are thinking in a few minutes.[Sarah, Beth and Audra stand up and <br> walk to overhead.] |  |  |
| 61 | Audra | We thought that we did not have to put anything else on the number line, because <br> if we put this from zero to 1 and you would mark one third here because if you <br> used a ruler here to measure it or something | one third would go here, two thirds would go here, |  |


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| 62 |  | RT1 | What I am not clear about when I am looking up there, I am not sure, you wrote a <br> number on top, and I thought we all agreed that we would write our number line <br> with the numbers in the bottom. Where would you place the three-thirds? |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 63 |  | Audra | We would place it here [Group puts three thirds slightly to the left of one.] |  |
| 64 |  | RT1 <br> there. Because, I underneath the number line and tell us why you would place it <br> [Groups workstogether on placing the three thirds on the bottom of the line.] <br> And, you are telling me you would place it with 1 to the right of three-thirds? <br> [No verbal response from group.] So this clearly defines where we have <br> differences of opinions, right? Is that true? So, how many of you are agreeing <br> that we should place 1 to the right of three thirds? How many of you believe <br> that? |  |  |
| 65 |  | Students | [Student response not on camera view.] |  |
| 66 |  | RT1 | Oh. How many of you believe that it should go to the left of three-thirds? |  |
| 67 | Students | [One student on camera, Bryan, raises hand.] |  |  |
| 68 |  | RT1 | How many of you believe it should go right on top of the one? |  |
| 69 |  | Students | [Nine students raise their hand.] |  |
| 70 |  | Audra | That's what we meant. We just could not get it right on top to fit. |  |
| 71 | RT1 | You meant to put it on top? |  |  |
| 72 |  | Students | You just put it under it. |  |


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| 73 |  | RT1 | Oh, I see, you just could not fit it in. So, Jessica, how could they do it to put it by <br> the one? [Jessica walks up to overhead.] <br> You want to go show them how to do it? They meant the same thing, Okay. So, <br> I am hearing that we have some agreement here then; you all agree that three <br> thirds would go under one. It would go in the same spot. How many agree with <br> that? [Six students on camera raise their hands] And, I would like to hear again <br> why that would work, could you tell me Erin? Why you would put it there and <br> not to the right or to the left? Any idea? Want to think about it? |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 74 |  | Erin | I want to think about it a little more. |  |
| 75 | RT1 | Okay. James? | I think one half and one half makes a whole and four-fourths would make a <br> whole and three thirds would make a whole also, so it will be right on top of the <br> one. |  |
| 76 | James | Okay. Are you agreeing with that Jakki?  <br> 77  | RT1 | Yas. |
| 79 | RT1 | Some of you are nodding your heads. Okay. So, I am hearing some agreement <br> on that and that is where you would place it |  |  |

