

Description: Early Algebra Ideas Involving Two Variables: Clip 12 of 18, Solutions for Problem 6 Parent Tape: Early Algebra Ideas Involving Two Variables Date: 1993-10-01 Location: Harding Elementary School Researcher: Robert B. Davis	Transcriber(s): Spang, Kathleen Verifier(s): Yedman, Madeline Date Transcribed: Fall 2010 Page: 1 of 2
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RBD Can I draw attention to something that Michael did, I'm not sure that everybody caught it and it was a very good idea. Um, and it is that he has written this formula using this box and triangle notation, OK. He used the box and triangle notation to write the formula. Now, uh, some of you have got some very clever things, but you are writing them in words. So the question is can you go and do the sort of thing Mike did and write the box and triangle? Take some of these other ideas, but **write** them, have you done it?

Ankur Yeah.

RBD OK, come and tell the camera. Well, at some point we will we need to talk about...

Michelle I You've got to try and figure it out first though before we tell you.

RBD Yeah, I think it's a good idea to try and figure it out yourself.

Ankur OK, the number here, the number that's here, you see will always go here and always in this place will go the one and the answer goes here which is four the answer is seventeen.

RBD Yeah, that's certainly right, OK, um, can you think of a way to write it so that we'll know that the number that goes here has to go here too.

Ankur Like we did on the back?

RBD No, with symbols and boxes and triangles we...

Ankur Can we do it like this? The box here and the box here.

RBD Yeah, you want to go and do that?

Ankur Yeah.

Student I just have to write one more thing.

RBD So I guess the hard problem that people are working on is number six, isn't it? Um, yeah, you got six? Did you say it to the camera yet? Why don't you come do that? Now which one are you talking about? You're talking about this one right here.

RBD Um, yeah, you got six? Did you say it to the camera yet? Why don't you come do that? Now which one are you talking about? You're talking about this one right here.

Amy Lynn OK, well, it's a zero times one and then it's like the plus one and then it goes from like the one times one cause it's just zero, one two, three, four, five. And then it goes one, one two. You see there.

RBD It could be zero.

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Amy Lynn Yeah it could be zero. Zero, one, two, three, four, five. And then you just keep the plus one and you go.

RBD All right, can you think of a way of writing that so, it looks like it certainly works. Can you write that with that box and triangle notation? See if you can?

Amy Lynn OK.

Bobby What do you mean by box and triangle notation?

RBD Well, you're not going to write exactly the same thing because this was the answer for a different question. There is some method that goes boxes and triangles to write it.

Student This is the same pattern as six.

RBD Let me see, uh, Michelle and Ankur were you about to, oh you're working on it OK. You've got it OK, let's get it down.

Romina It's the wrong way he's got it backwards.

Ankur When the box is here the number that goes here that goes in the next box would be legal. So these two have to be the same.

RBD Yup, do you agree?

Michelle I Yeah.

Ankur And this is always one and the triangle is the answer.

RBD That is elegant. That is great.

Michelle I Yes.

Ankur Is that what you were thinking?

RBD Yeah, that's what I did, but I didn't invent it somebody told me it.

Ankur We invented it.

RBD You reinvented it.