

Using Area Models as a Way to Understand

Multiplying Numbers Parents' Guide

Teaching Mathematics That Makes Sense



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Multiplication: Generic Area Model

Multiplication:

Distributive

Property

You can also multiply numbers by using what we call the generic area model — in other words, the sides of the rectangle are not proportional.

Consider the original problem:

Since we are multiplying a 2-digit number by a 2-digit number, create a 2 X 2 rectangle and think of it like a multiplication chart:

200 + 30 + 140 + 21 = 391

Notice we get the same numbers as we did with partial products and the area model methods.

There is yet another way to think about multiplying numbers — we can multiply numbers using the distributive property.

23×17

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