

Measurement Lesson 2



Learning Goal 6: I can explain the importance of significant figures in a measurement and identify the number of significant figures in a measurement value.




Learning Goal 7: I can round calculated values to the correct number of significant figures.



Learning Goal 8L: I can measure to the correct number of significant figures.




 *Ask your teacher for the handout that accompanies this lesson. You will also need a copy of a paper titled “Task Card Answer Sheet”.*

Part 1: Counting Significant Figures

 *Look at the handout titled “Significant Figures”.*

This handout shows six groups of measurements. For each group, the number of significant figures is indicated.

 Analyze the data on the handout to determine when zero and nonzero digits are counted as significant figures.

? When are nonzero digits counted as significant figures?

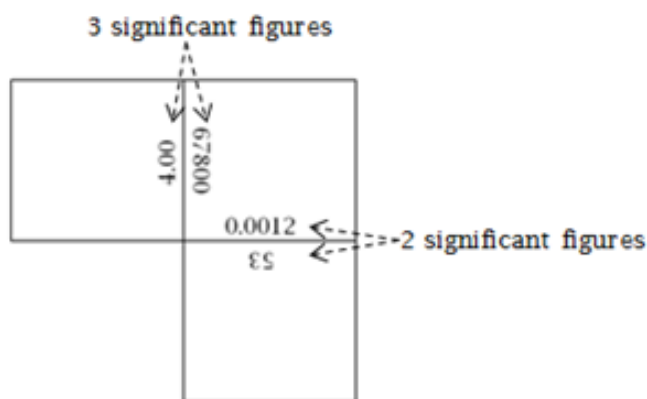
? When are zero digits counted as significant figures?
(Hint! There are two answers to this question.)

? When are zero digits NOT counted as significant figures?
(Hint! There are two answers to this question.)

👉 *Ask your teacher for an envelope containing a “Significant Figure Puzzle”.*

The puzzle has twelve square cards with numbers written on the sides of the squares.

👉 Assemble the cards in a 3 x 4 grid so that the numbers that are touching one another have the same number of significant figures.



Part 2: Rounding Numbers

- Compare the two groups of numbers below.

Both groups show numbers that have been rounded to a certain number of significant figures.

Group 1

Rounding to the right of the decimal point:

Round to 4 sig fig: $4.67391 \rightarrow 4.674$

Round to 3 sig fig: $4.67391 \rightarrow 4.67$

Round to 2 sig fig: $4.67391 \rightarrow 4.7$

Group 2

Rounding to the left of the decimal point:

Remove decimal and
#'s to right of decimal

Change unneeded
digits to 0's

Round to 4 sig fig: $56486.54 \rightarrow 56486 \rightarrow 56490$

Round to 3 sig fig: $56486.54 \rightarrow 56486 \rightarrow 56500$

Round to 2 sig fig: $56486.54 \rightarrow 58486 \rightarrow 56000$

- ? Describe how to round a number when the number of significant figures needed ends to the right of the decimal point.

- ? Describe how to round a number when the number of significant figures needed ends to the left of the decimal point.

👉 Get out the “Measurement – Set 2 Task Card Answer Sheet”.

These task cards show different numbers next to different colors. Each person in a group should round numbers next to a **different color**.

Record your answers on the “Set Task Card Answer Sheet”

Part 3: Calculations

👁️ Compare the following rules for rounding the answers to calculations .

The answers to calculations involving measurements must be rounded so that they reflect the smallest degree of precision used in the measurement.

<p style="text-align: center;">Rule 1 Multiplication and Division</p> <p>Round answer to the smallest number of <u>significant figures</u> used in the calculation.</p> <p>Ex. $4.32 \times 7.301 = 31.54032$</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3sf 4sf 7sf</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↙ Lowest # of sig. fig. used</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round answer to : 31.5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3sf</p> <p>*sf = significant figures</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rule 2 Addition and Subtraction</p> <p>Round answer to the smallest number of <u>decimal places</u> used in the calculation.</p> <p>Ex. $3.678 + 2.12 = 5.789$</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3dp 2 dp 3dp</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↖ Lowest # of dec. places. used</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round answer to : 5.79</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2dp</p> <p>*dp = decimal places</p>
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? What is the main rounding difference between the two rules?

👉 Ask your teacher for a set of “Measurement – Set 3 Task Cards” and get out the “Task Card Answer Sheet”.

? Answer the questions on the task cards. Use the rules from about to round each answer to the correct number of digits.

Task Card Answer Sheet

Measurement Set 2 Task Cards

Color _____

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

Measurement Set 3 Task Cards

Color _____

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

Significant Figures Study Sheet

Identifying Significant Figures

Significant	NOT Significant
<p>All nonzero numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)</p> <p>0's in between digits (3201)</p> <p>Trailing 0's <u>with</u> a decimal (45.300)</p>	<p>Leading 0's (0.00023)</p> <p>Trailing 0's <u>without</u> a decimal (743000)</p>

Rounding

To the right of the decimal

Round to 3 sig figs: 67.3735



Remove unneeded digits.

$$67.3735 = 67.3$$



Round up if necessary.

$$67.3 = 67.4$$

To the left of the decimal

Round to 2 sig figs: 83452



Change to scientific notation.

$$83452 = 8.3452 \times 10^4$$



Remove unneeded digits.

$$8.3452 \times 10^4 = 8.3 \times 10^4$$



Round up if necessary.

Not necessary

Calculations

Rule 1

Multiplication and Division

Round answer to the smallest number of significant figures used in the calculation.

$$\text{Ex. } 4.32 \times 7.301 = 31.54032$$

3sf 4sf 7sf

← Lowest # of sig. fig. used

Round answer to : 31.5
3sf

*sf = significant figures

Rule 2

Addition and Subtraction

Round answer to the smallest number of decimal places used in the calculation.

$$\text{Ex. } 3.678 + 2.12 = 5.789$$

3dp 2 dp 3dp

← Lowest # of dec. places. used

Round answer to : 5.79
2dp

*dp = decimal places

Significant Figures

1 Significant Figure

4
400
4.
0.004
 4×10^3

2 Significant Figures

45
450
4.5
0.0045
 4.5×10^3

3 Significant Figures

453
45300
4.53
0.00453
 4.53×10^3
403

4 Significant Figures

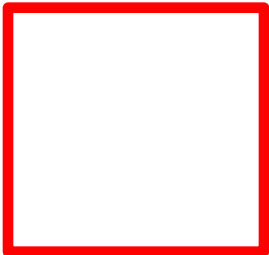

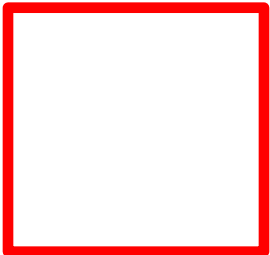
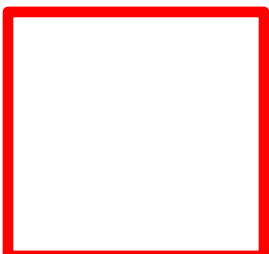

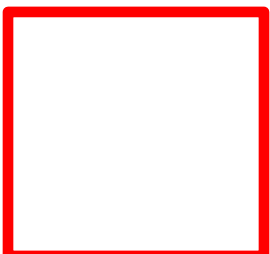
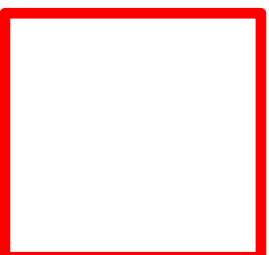
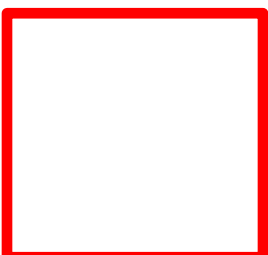
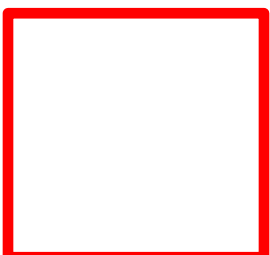
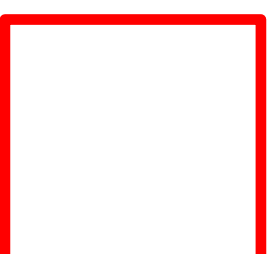
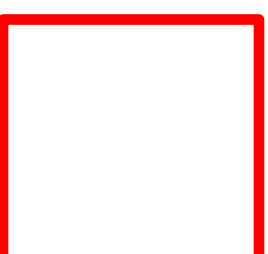
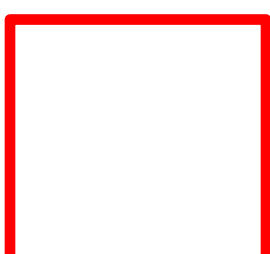
4537
453700
4.537
0.004537
 4.537×10^3
4007













5 Significant Figures

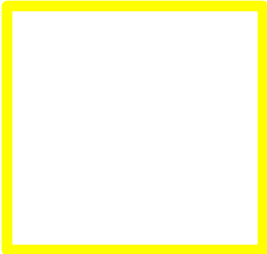
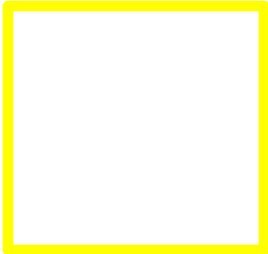
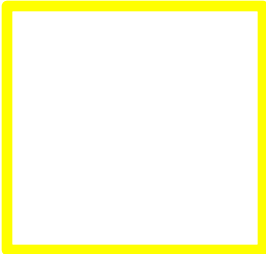
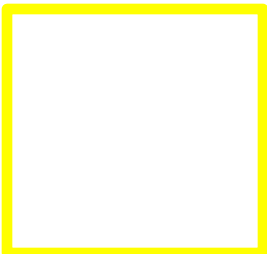
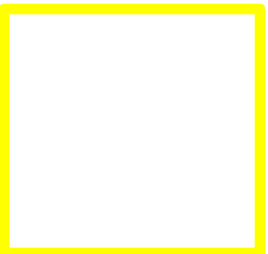
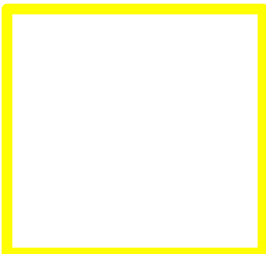
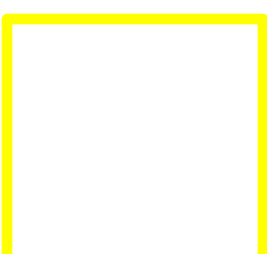
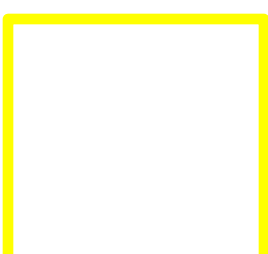
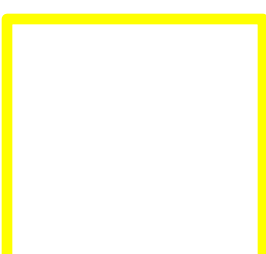
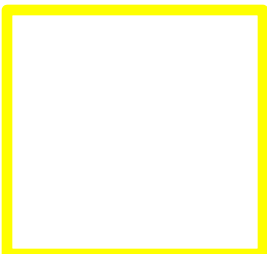
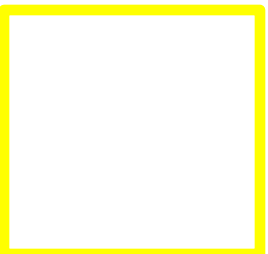
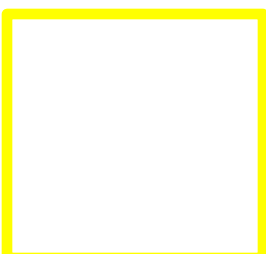
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4537200
4.5372
0.0045372
 4.5372×10^3
40002

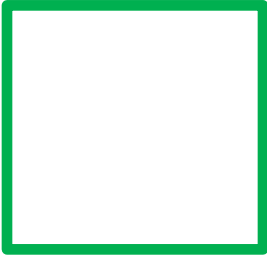
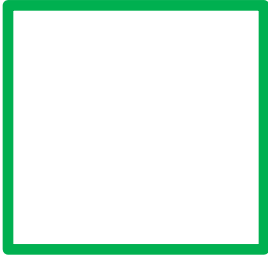
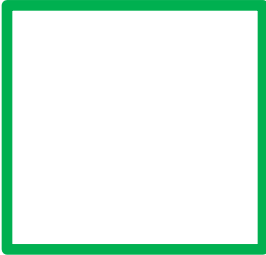
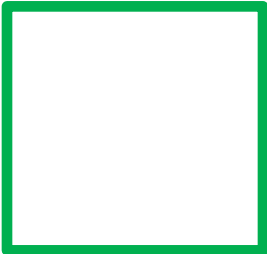

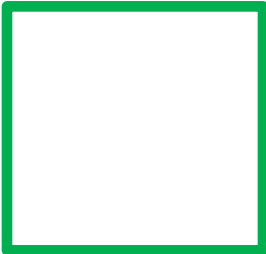
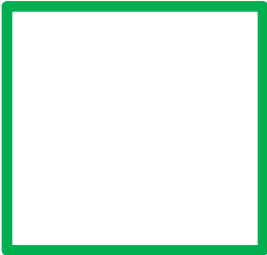
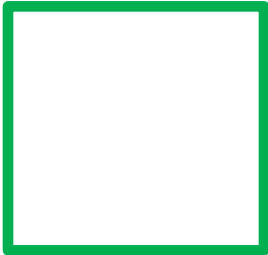
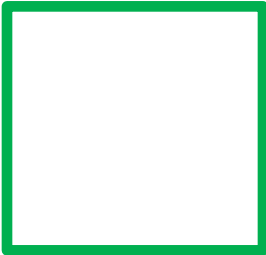
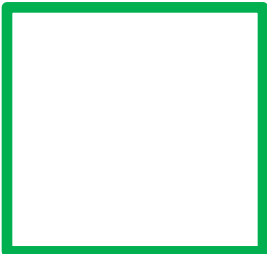

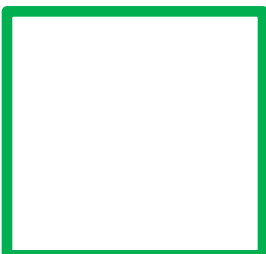
6 Significant Figures

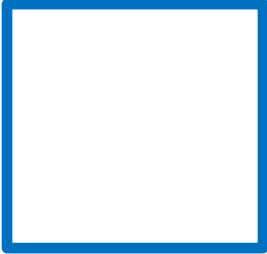
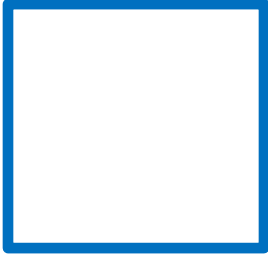
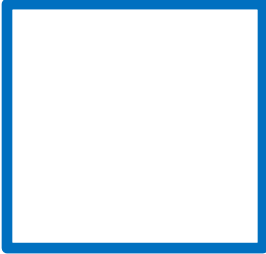








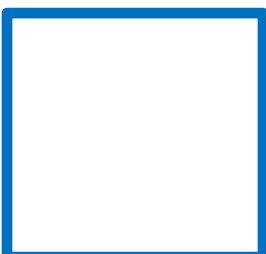
453726
45372600
4.53726
0.00453726
 4.53726×10^3
400006

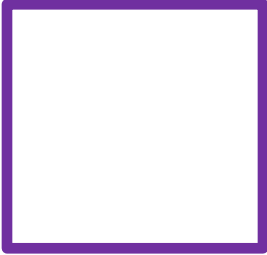
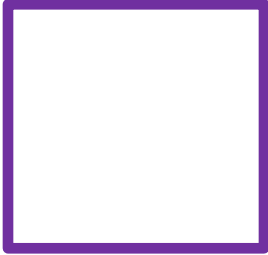
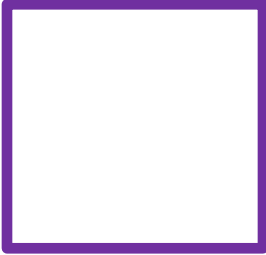
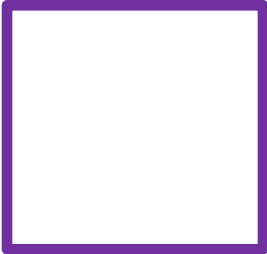

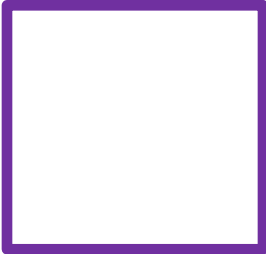
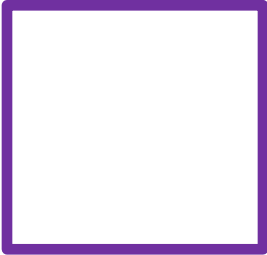
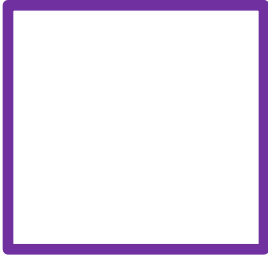
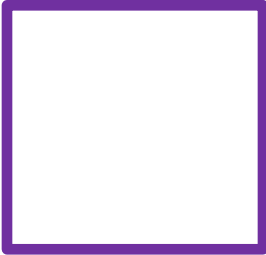
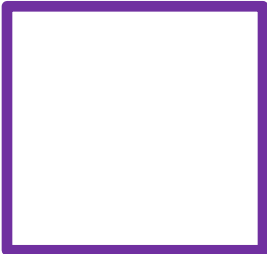
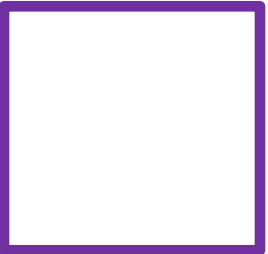

<p>1010</p>  <p>0.0023</p>	<p>42</p>  <p>3.00×10^3</p>	<p>39100</p> 
<p>101</p> <p>70072</p>	<p>101</p> <p>456</p>	<p>101</p> <p>10000</p>
<p>0.00476</p>  <p>2.003×10^3</p> <p>590021</p>	<p>8.2201</p>  <p>2</p> <p>0.09361</p> <p>87400.0</p>	<p>80.08</p> 
<p>120065</p> <p>0.0852143</p>  <p>300</p> <p>0.0053</p>	<p>2.11 $\times 10^5$</p>  <p>5.670</p> <p>0.00007</p> <p>550</p>	<p>00.08</p> <p>1.234</p>  <p>97310</p> <p>10000001</p>
<p>280</p>  <p>4041</p>	<p>4.1</p>  <p>4000</p> <p>0.005681</p>	<p>0.007</p>  <p>5</p>

 <p>8020</p> <p>0.0067</p>	 <p>50012</p> <p>21</p> <p>5.00×10^5</p>	 <p>701</p> <p>48200</p>
 <p>690077</p> <p>0.00945</p> <p>1.003×10^3</p>	 <p>0.00942</p> <p>94201</p> <p>5</p> <p>0.05219</p>	 <p>00.70</p> <p>612</p> <p>10000</p>
 <p>0.0026</p> <p>0.0641296</p> <p>007</p>	 <p>760</p> <p>3.33 $\times 10^5$</p> <p>0.00009</p> <p>0733</p>	 <p>7000000</p> <p>6.412</p> <p>86210</p>
 <p>280</p> <p>1507</p>	 <p>0.009442</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>2002</p>	 <p>0.005</p> <p>3</p>

<p>1010</p>  <p>0.0098</p>	<p>70072</p>  <p>93</p> <p>4.00×10^3</p>	<p>101</p>  <p>52100</p>
<p>120065</p>  <p>0.00796</p> <p>7.003×10^3</p>	<p>87400.0</p>  <p>0.03261</p> <p>9</p> <p>2.2301</p>	<p>00.08</p>  <p>70000</p> <p>259</p>
<p>4900.0</p>  <p>0.0256143</p> <p>906</p>	<p>830</p>  <p>0.00003</p> <p>6.2609</p> <p>4.21×10^5</p>	<p>9000000</p>  <p>73210</p> <p>4.254</p>
<p>740</p>  <p>2064</p>	<p>7.4</p>  <p>0.003961</p> <p>9006</p>	<p>0.008</p>  <p>2</p>

<p>4020</p>  <p>0.0012</p>	<p>72</p>  <p>8.00×10^3</p>	<p>67100</p> 
<p>610076</p>  <p>6.003×10^3</p> <p>0.00523</p>	<p>0.03651</p>  <p>7</p> <p>5.1301</p> <p>56300.0</p>	<p>50000</p>  <p>762</p> <p>40.00</p>
<p>0.0023</p>  <p>200</p> <p>0.0152853</p>	<p>0.00002</p>  <p>2.172</p> <p>7.85×10^5</p> <p>640</p>	<p>88310</p>  <p>9.434</p> <p>8000000</p>
<p>310</p>  <p>3021</p>	<p>0.003281</p>  <p>7007</p> <p>2.4</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>0.002</p>


 <p>9060</p> <p>9500.0</p>	 <p>30032</p> <p>13</p> <p>$\text{€}01 \times 00.4$</p>	 <p>401</p> <p>54300</p>
 <p>430021</p> <p>0.00546</p> <p>$\text{€}01 \times 600.3$</p>	 <p>0.00654</p> <p>6.3801</p> <p>4</p> <p>0.04321</p>	 <p>20.00</p> <p>974</p> <p>70000</p>
 <p>0.0043</p> <p>0.0931143</p> <p>007</p>	 <p>230</p> <p>5.41×10^5</p> <p>0.00003</p> <p>6.270</p>	 <p>2000000</p> <p>8.573</p> <p>62310</p>
 <p>840</p> <p>4507</p>	 <p>6.2</p> <p>0.004987</p> <p>8008</p>	 <p>8</p> <p>0.008</p>

<p>5080</p>  <p>0.0031</p>	<p>20032</p>  <p>5.00×10^3</p> <p>62</p>	<p>308</p>  <p>72100</p>
<p>790023</p>  <p>4.003×10^3</p> <p>0.00643</p>	<p>0.00632</p>  <p>4</p> <p>0.08261</p> <p>9.6501</p>	<p>50.00</p>  <p>90000</p> <p>912</p>
<p>0.0084</p>  <p>100</p> <p>0.0742963</p>	<p>610</p>  <p>5.670</p> <p>0.00003</p> <p>9.64×10^5</p>	<p>3000000</p>  <p>69810</p> <p>9.539</p>
<p>560</p>  <p>9041</p>	<p>7.6</p>  <p>4000</p> <p>0.002667</p>	<p>0.003</p>  <p>6</p>

Significant Figures in Calculations - Answers

By the end of this lesson, I will be able to:

- ✓ Identify the number of significant figures in a measurement.
- ✓ Explain the difference between rounding to the right of a decimal and rounding to the left of a decimal.
- ✓ Contrast how to round the answer to a multiplication or division calculation with how to round the answer to an addition or subtraction calculation.
- ✓ Perform simple calculations and round the answers to the correct number of digits.

 *Ask your teacher for the handout that accompanies this lesson. You will also need a copy of a paper titled "Task Card Answer Sheet".*

Part 1: Counting Significant Figures

 *Look at the handout titled "Significant Figures".*

This handout shows five groups of measurements. For each group, the number of significant figures is indicated.

 Analyze the data on the handout to determine when zero and nonzero digits are counted as significant figures.

? When are nonzero digits counted as significant figures?

Nonzero digits are always counted as significant figures.

? When are zero digits counted as significant figures?
(Hint! There are two answers to this question.)

Zero digits are counted as significant figures when they are in between other digits AND when they are trailing zeroes in a decimal.

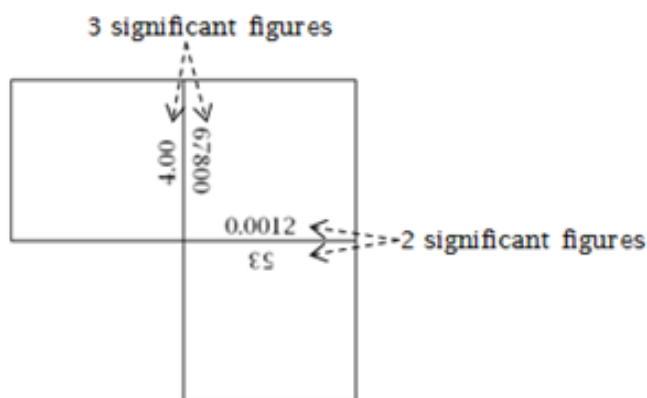
- ? When are zero digits NOT counted as significant figures?
(Hint! There are two answers to this question.)

Zero digits are not counted as significant figures when they are leading zeroes AND when they are trailing zeroes **in a nondecimal**.

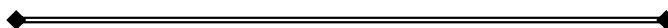
- ✎ Ask your teacher for an envelope containing a “Significant Figure Puzzle” and get out the “Task Card Answer Sheet”.

The puzzle has twelve square cards with numbers written on the sides of the squares.

- ✎ Assemble the cards in a 3 x 4 grid so that the numbers that are touching one another have the same number of significant figures.



- ? Record your card arrangement on the “Task Card Answer Sheet” by copying the cards onto the grid. Be sure to also record the color of the cards.



Part 2: Rounding Numbers

- Compare the two groups of numbers below.

Both groups show numbers that have been rounded to a certain number of significant figures.

Group 1

Rounding to the right of the decimal point:

Round to 4 sig fig: $4.67391 \rightarrow 4.674$

Round to 3 sig fig: $4.67391 \rightarrow 4.67$

Round to 2 sig fig: $4.67391 \rightarrow 4.7$

Group 2

Rounding to the left of the decimal point:

Change to scientific notation!



Round to 4 sig fig: $56486.54 \rightarrow 5.648654 \times 10^4 \rightarrow 5.649 \times 10^4$

Round to 3 sig fig: $56486.54 \rightarrow 5.648654 \times 10^4 \rightarrow 5.65 \times 10^4$

Round to 2 sig fig: $56486.54 \rightarrow 5.648654 \times 10^4 \rightarrow 5.6 \times 10^4$

- ? Describe how to round a number when the number of significant figures needed ends to the right of the decimal point.

Remove digits from the right of the number. Round the last digit up if the last digit removed is greater than or equal to five.

- ? Describe how to round a number when the number of significant figures needed ends to the left of the decimal point.

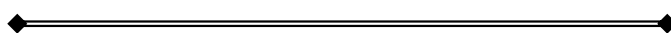
Change the number to scientific notation. Remove digits from the right of the number. Round the last digit up if the last digit removed is greater than or equal to five.

👉 *Return to your "Task Card Answer Sheet".*

Your teacher has hidden Rounding Task Cards around the room. Each task card has six colors next to six questions. Each question asks you to round a number to a certain number of significant figures.

👉 Find each task card and answer the question next the color that was on your "Significant Figure Puzzle" in Part 1.

? Record your answers on your "Task Card Answer Sheet".



Part 3: Calculations

👁️ *Compare the following rules for rounding the answers to calculations.*


The answers to calculations involving measurements must be rounded so that they reflect the smallest degree of precision used in the measurement.

<p style="text-align: center;">Rule 1 Multiplication and Division Round answer to the smallest number of <u>significant figures</u> used in the calculation.</p> <p>Ex. $4.32 \times 7.301 = 31.54032$ 3sf 4sf 7sf</p> <p>↖</p> <p>Lowest # of sig. fig. used</p> <p>Round answer to : 31.5 3sf</p> <p>*sf = significant figures</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Rule 2 Addition and Subtraction Round answer to the smallest number of <u>decimal places</u> used in the calculation.</p> <p>Ex. $3.678 + 2.12 = 5.789$ 3dp 2 dp 3dp</p> <p>↗</p> <p>Lowest # of dec. places. used</p> <p>Round answer to : 5.79 2dp</p> <p>*dp = decimal places</p>
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? What is the main rounding difference between the two rules?

In multiplication and division, the answer should be rounded to the lowest number of significant figures used. In addition and subtraction, the answer should be rounded to the lowest number of decimal places used.

 Ask your teacher for a set of “Calculation Task Cards” and get out the “Task Card Answer Sheet”.

? Perform the calculations on the Calculation Task Cards. Use the rules from above to round each answer to the correct number of digits. Record your answers on your “Task Card Answer Sheet”.

Task Card Answers

Puzzle Answers

See the arrangement of the cards before cutting.

Rounding Answers

Card	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Violet
1	3.460	9.071	23.61	496.4	92.74	561.9
2	4.3×10^4	8.9×10^2	7.2×10^3	9.7×10^5	6.9×10^4	1.5×10^4
3	6.9×10^3	3.2×10^4	6.9×10^7	2.7×10^2	9.3×10^8	4.2×10^5
4	2.85	9.12	1.38	8.57	4.08	5.23
5	8×10^3 (8000)	10×10^4 (1.0×10^5) (100000)	2×10^5 (200000)	9×10^4 (90000)	6×10^3 (6000)	4×10^4 (40000)
6	7.92×10^5	4.79×10^3	2.46×10^4	8.77×10^2	6.53×10^7	3.92×10^8
7	4.3197×10^7	7.0347×10^6	5.3279×10^5	2.8535×10^6	3.7655×10^5	6.8457×10^7
8	5.8	4.5	9.4	3.6	2.8	1.4
9	6.72×10^5	4.33×10^4	2.13×10^4	8.30×10^4	3.97×10^5	5.83×10^4
10	6.128×10^5	8.330×10^2	3.426×10^7	2.483×10^3	4.284×10^9	5.846×10^6
11	8.9×10^2	5.1×10^3	24 (2.4×10^1)	67 (6.7×10^1)	7.8×10^2	4.5×10^3
12	1.644×10^5	9.309×10^6	5.973×10^5	2.873×10^5	4.733×10^6	3.747×10^5

Calculation Answers

Card	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Violet
1	6.1×10^1 (61)	4.7×10^1 (47)	5.4×10^1 (54)	4.1×10^1 (41)	2.6×10^1 (26)	7.1×10^1 (71)
2	14.2	16.2	18.2	13.1	13.2	17.2
3	14.5	19.9	8.01	11.7	18.2	13.9
4	32	25	32	27	54	18
5	4.1×10^3	3.4×10^4	4.4×10^5	1.8×10^4	2.1×10^3	2.2×10^4
6	3.91	3.88	1.37	1.92	3.01	3.23
7	1.64	2.19	2.73	3.50	1.63	1.32
8	5.813	8.629	11.809	14.704	10.840	12.606

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