

SHOEBOX

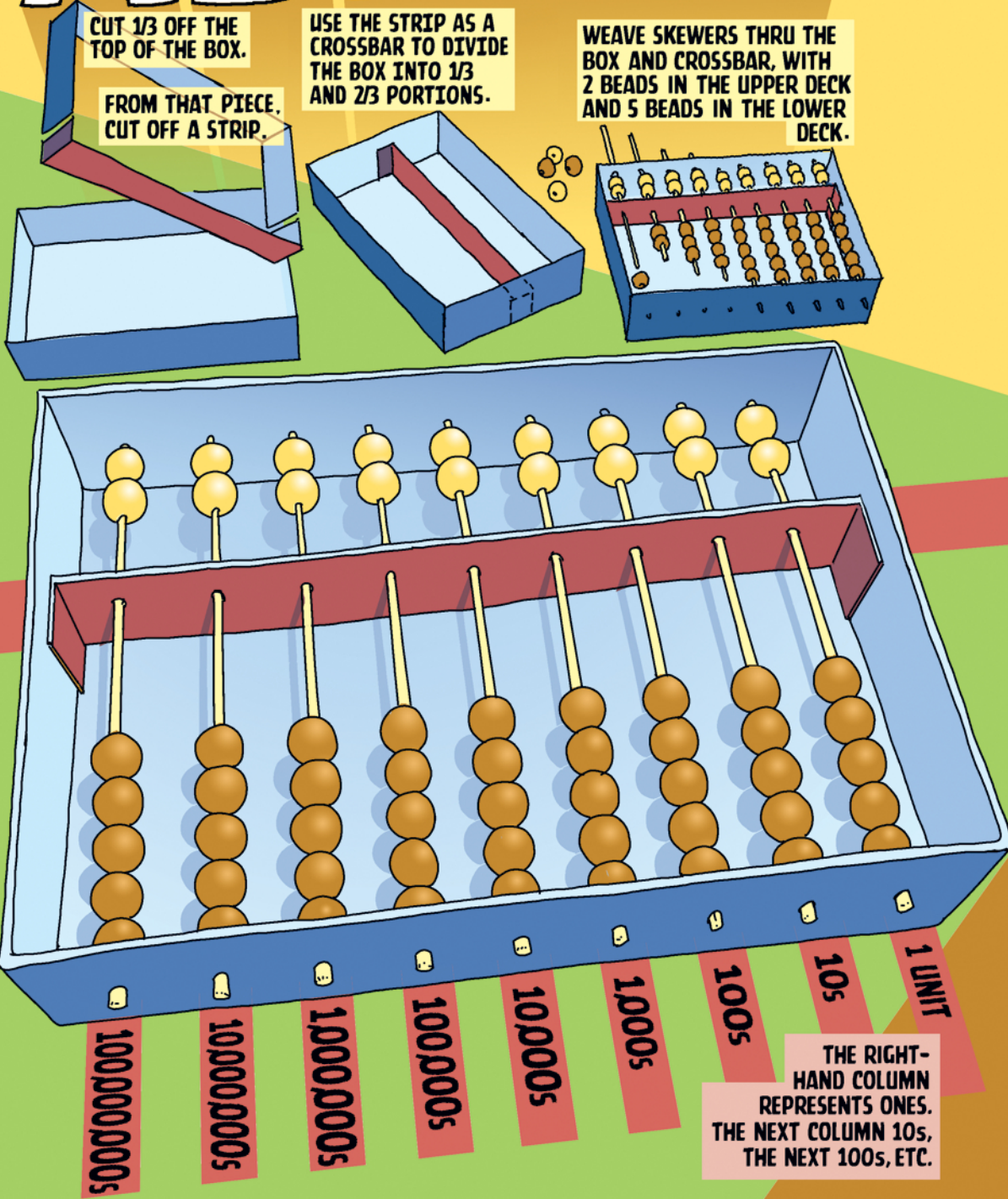
# ABACUS

CUT 1/3 OFF THE TOP OF THE BOX.

FROM THAT PIECE, CUT OFF A STRIP.

USE THE STRIP AS A CROSSBAR TO DIVIDE THE BOX INTO 1/3 AND 2/3 PORTIONS.

WEAVE SKEWERS THRU THE BOX AND CROSSBAR, WITH 2 BEADS IN THE UPPER DECK AND 5 BEADS IN THE LOWER DECK.



THE RIGHT-HAND COLUMN REPRESENTS ONES. THE NEXT COLUMN 10s, THE NEXT 100s, ETC.

LONG BEFORE WRITTEN NUMBERS EXISTED, THE ABACUS WAS INVENTED AS A TOOL TO HELP MERCHANTS COUNT LARGE NUMBERS AND CALCULATE THE COST OF GOODS. THE ABACUS IS STILL WIDELY USED TODAY.



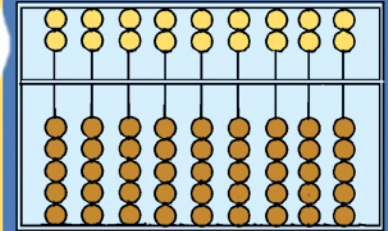
EACH BEAD IN THE UPPER DECK HAS A VALUE OF 5.

BEADS ARE CONSIDERED COUNTED WHEN MOVED TO THE CROSSBAR.

EACH BEAD IN THE LOWER DECK HAS A VALUE OF ONE.

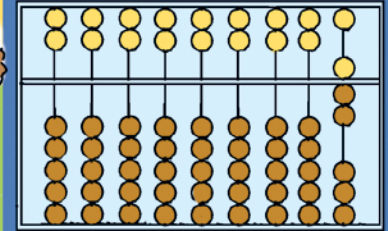
AFTER 5 BEADS ARE COUNTED IN THE LOWER DECK, THE RESULT IS CARRIED TO THE UPPER DECK.

IF BOTH BEADS IN THE UPPER DECK ARE COUNTED THE RESULT IS THEN CARRIED TO THE LEFT-HAND COLUMN.



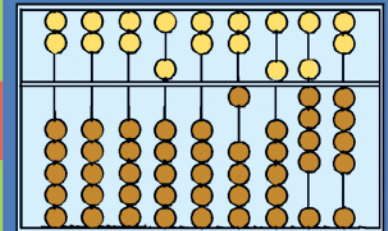
0 + 0

NO BEADS ON CROSSBAR = 0



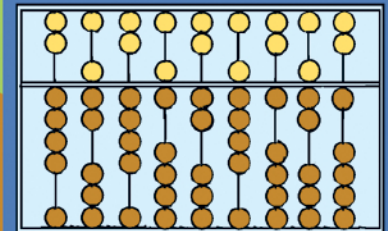
5 + 2

7

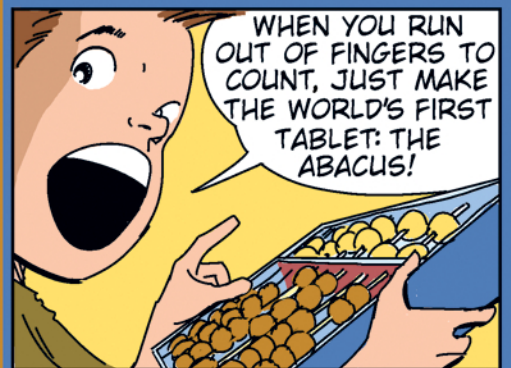


50050 + 1044

5 0 1 5 9 4



4 7 4 6 2 9 1 7 1



HOWTOONS