

DCBEAGLE Challenges

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK = May 2018



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Fun versus the curriculum

You need to make a decision - do I plough through **all** of the topics but leave my students bored and unmotivated, or do I spend some time getting them excited about maths (and hopefully, motivated enough to go and fill in any gaps by themselves)?

It is always interesting talking to adults about “modern” maths teaching methods especially the ones who succeeded in the subject. Their belief is learning by rote and repetition is the only way to “learn” maths. Sadly they are in the minority and when questioning adults about their experiences they lived in a world of hieroglyphics and gained no confidence in mathematics.

As educators we need to engage the pupils at all times. A blog written for [SquareCirclez](#) by Murray Bourne highlights the importance of the way we teach mathematics. This will be a good starting point for your initial meeting in the new academic year.

Puzzle of the month

Longfellow’s bees

This is attributed to the poet, Longfellow, who wrote puzzles in his spare time:

If one-fifth of a hive of bees flew to the ladamba flower, one-third flew to the slandbara, three times the difference of these two numbers flew to an arbour, and one bee continued to fly about, attracted on each side by the fragrant ketaki and the malati, what was the number of bees?

Website of the month - [MathSolutions](#)

There is a wide range of activities for all ages covering early years to 13 year olds. Not only is there a description of an activity but there is a commentary of the lesson on the topic.

Place to visit if visiting London – [London Science Museum](#)

The Winton Gallery has moved forward to produce an exciting display of mathematical items. Visit the website before going then it gives you a good idea of what to look for.

Game of the month – [Number Boggle](#)

I am sure most of us have played Boggle with letters trying to make words looking at adjacent tiles. In Number Boggle you have to create number sentences using addition and subtraction. I have put a booklet of Number Boggle grids for you to use. Click [here](#).

Maths in the News

Children should do exercise in maths and English lessons to boost grades – [The Independent](#)

60-year-old maths problem partly solved by amateur – [The Guardian](#)

Puzzle solution

15 bees

And finally ...

What happened to the plant in the maths room – it grew square roots!

Why should the number 288 never be mentioned – it is too gross!