

Place value to 9,999 – the thousands column

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

The thousands column is a new place to the left of the hundreds. One block here is worth one thousand, the same as ten hundred-flats traded together.

- In 4,070 the digit 4 sits in the thousands column, so it is worth four thousand.
- In 8,206 the zero in the tens column shows there are no tens.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

READING 5,600 IN COLUMNS

- 1 The columns are labelled Th, H, T and U.
- 2 One digit sits in each column: **5** in Th, **6** in H, **0** in T, **0** in U.
- 3 The **5** is worth five thousand and the **6** is worth six hundred; the zeros mean no tens and no units.

Th	H	T	U
5	6	0	0

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT Which digit do you look at first when you read a four-digit number, and why?

ANSWER KEY

c) 6,208: tens; 5,004: hundreds, tens

Q1: thousands; 1,000

Q2: 2,000

Q3: Th: 3, H: 0, T: 1, U: 2

Q4: hundreds empty; 7,000

a) Always — Smallest 4-digit is 1,000; largest 3-digit is 999.

b) Always — 0 is a place-holder — e.g. in 3,056 the tens column has no tens.

c) Never — 3,400 = 34 hundreds — same value, different grouping.

d) Sometimes — True in a 4-digit number; in 305 the hundreds digit does the most work.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 900 (9 hundreds)

S2: 2 (2 ones)

S3: 300 (3 hundreds)

S4: 6 (6 ones)

S5: 600 (6 hundreds)

Investigation: How big is a thousand? — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.