

Rounding whole numbers to estimate in context

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Round numbers first to get a quick sensible estimate before the exact sum.

→ $516 + 289$ is about $500 + 300 = 800$.

→ 4050 divided by 5 is about 4000 divided by $5 = 800$.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

ESTIMATE THE CHANGE

- 1 Round the total 38.95 to 40.
- 2 Two 20 notes make 40.
- 3 40 minus 40 gives an estimate of 0 change.

ANSWER KEY

a) 800

b) 800

c) 31000

Q1: 900

Q2: 1,600

Q3: €400

Q4: 43,000

Q5: 80,000

a) Sometimes — It works for many but not all totals.

b) Always — This is the rule for quick estimates.

c) Never — It is often close enough to check.

d) Always — Rounding first works for division too.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 200,000 (2 hundred thousands)

S2: $485,708 = 400,000 + 80,000 + 5,000 + 700 + 8$

S3: 95.3

S4: 74.9

S5: $377,265 = 300,000 + 70,000 + 7,000 + 200 + 60 + 5$