



When you add numbers you usually start at the right side of the problem in the ones place and work left. When you subtract and multiply you do the same thing. However, when you divide, you start at the left side of the number in the greatest place value. Is there a good reason to do this? Review the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Imagine the standard procedures for these operations have not been established yet, and you are to find efficient ways to do these operations.

Explore a variety of ways to add, subtract, multiply and divide. Start adding from the left or the middle. Do your division problem from the right. Do several of each kind of problem.

**Example:** 632 Start with  $6+4=1000$  then  $3+7=100$  +475 and  $2+5=7$   $1000+100+7=1107$

Remember your procedure must yield the correct answer! Division is harder but it can be done. In  $5228 \div 4$  you usually start with 4 into 5, but try 4 into 8, and then work left. Place value is the key to understanding this.

Make a chart of each kind of operation showing the steps used. In a paragraph tell how your methods differ from the standard. Share your results with the class.