

Unit 5: Rational Number Arithmetic



Family Resources for Math 7 Unit 5: Rational Number Arithmetic

Supporting Middle School Math Learning at Home

Middle school is a pivotal time in a child's mathematical journey. As concepts become more complex and abstract, students are also developing greater independence in how they learn. During this stage, the role of parents and caregivers is not to have all the answers, but to create an environment where effort, curiosity, and persistence are valued. With the right support, home can become a place where students build confidence, develop problem-solving skills, and strengthen their identity as capable math learners.

Ways to Support at Home

Create Time & Space for Math

- Predictable routines build focus and responsibility.

Focus on Understanding

- Shift from "getting it done" to "making sense of it."

Encourage Productive Struggle

- Give them time to try before stepping in.

Seek Help When Needed

- Reach out to teachers and use available resources like tutoring or school help sessions.



Ask Questions

- Guide with simple prompts like, "What is the problem asking you to find?"

Support Organization

- Help with time management and making a plan for studying.

Stay Positive About Math

- Instead of:

"I was never good at math."

Try:

"Let's figure this out together."

A Supportive Partnership

The goal of helping with math at home is not perfection—it's progress. When parents and caregivers provide structure, encouragement, and a positive mindset, they help students take ownership of their learning. Over time, this builds not only stronger math skills, but also persistence, independence, and confidence that extend far beyond the classroom.

Strategies for Learning Mathematics



For additional information and resources to support at home, please visit the [Office of Mathematics website](#).

Big Ideas in Unit 5

Within this unit, students will learn these big ideas:

- Adding and Subtracting Rational Numbers
- Multiplying and Dividing Rational Numbers
- Four Operations with Rational Numbers

For more details about this unit, see [Unit 5 Family Resources](#).

Lesson Specific Resources

Use the links below to learn about the learning from each lesson.

Lesson Link
5.1 Interpreting Negative Numbers
5.2 Changing Temperatures
5.3 Changing Elevation
5.4 Money and Debts
5.5 Representing Subtraction
5.6 Finding Differences
5.7 Adding and Subtracting to Solve Problems
5.8 Multiplying Rational Numbers (Part 1)
5.9 Multiplying Rational Numbers (Part 2)
5.10 Multiply!
5.11 Dividing Rational Numbers
5.12 Negative Rates
5.13 Expressions with Rational Numbers
5.14 Solving Problems with Rational Numbers
5.15 Solving Equations with Rational Numbers
5.16 Representing Contexts with Equations
5.17 The Stock Market