

Target Number

Grade Level: 3rd grade and up

Skill: Using all 4 operations, order of operations

Materials:

- Deck of cards with face cards removed. Aces are 1s. Or (for older players) keep the face cards in the deck. Jack = 11, Queen = 12, King = 0.

How to Play:

- Deal each player 5 cards. Put the remaining cards face down in a pile. This becomes the draw pile.
- Draw one card from the draw pile and lay it face up. This is the target number.
- Players use any combination of operations (+, -, x, ÷) and cards in their hands to create an equation that equals the target number.
- For Example, a player has the following cards in his/her hand and the target number is 8.



- The player thinks about how he/she can use various operations with the cards to get 8.
 - $8 \times 1 = 8$
 - $8 = 8$
 - $7 + 1 = 8$
 - $(10 + 7) - 8 - 1 = 8$
 - $(10 + 4) - (7 - 1) = 8$
- The player wants to use as many cards as possible, so one of the last 2 options is best. Player puts the cards used for the equation aside and draws cards from the draw pile to get his/her hand back up to 5 cards.
- A new target number is flipped over and players use their cards to try to get the new target number.
- Game ends when the draw pile is gone. The player who set the most cards aside wins!