

December 2013

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New K-2 Lesson!

Place Value

A new K-2 StarrMatica Lesson is launching *on Thursday*. *Place Value*. To access the new lesson, login to your teacher account and choose the K-2 button. Then choose the Math castle and *Place Value* as your topic.

Our farm themed place value lesson was designed to help students discover the meaning of place value on their own and to explore the concept in many different ways. In the *Learn* section:

- Students are challenged to experiment with grouping animals to determine what groupings make them easier to count.
- Students are introduced to counting by tens and ones
- Students explore the meaning of tens and ones with base ten blocks and discover the importance of zero as a place holder.

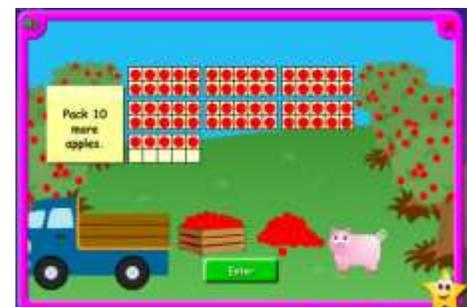
In the *Play* section:

- Students are challenged to visualize groups of tens and ones.
- Students are asked to represent numbers with ten frames and base ten blocks.
- Students practice increasing and decreasing a number by tens and by ones.

Be sure to check out two of our favorites listed below.

Game: *Aerial Gardening*

Count crops from the sky. How quickly can you count by visualizing rows of tens and ones?



Apple Pickin'

Add or take away boxes of ten apples and single apples to fulfill each farmer's market order.



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New Social Studies and Science Content

Westward Expansion, Insects, and Gold Rush

Last month resources in three new Social Studies and Science topics were added: *Westward Expansion, Insects, and the Gold Rush*. To access these resources, login to your teacher account and choose the search button, or choose the links tab in your classroom management account. Under the topics search, choose the *History* topic group under the Social Studies subject or the *Animals* topic group under the Science subject. Be sure to check out two of our favorites listed below.

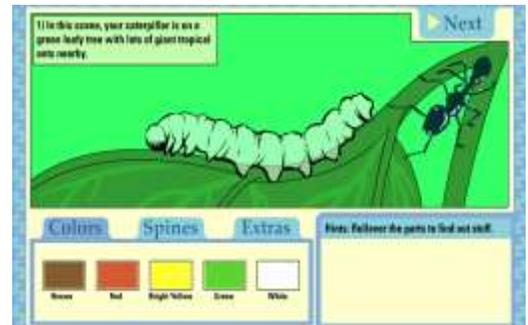


[Animated Atlas](#)

This ten minute animation illustrates the growth of the United States from the original thirteen states in 1789 to the nation it is today.

[Build Your Own Caterpillar](#)

Can you build a caterpillar to fit into its environment?



Cool Web Tool: Our Little Earth

With the current emphasis on nonfiction in 3rd-6th grade, this cool web tool provides a welcome resource for kid-focused, short, nonfiction texts. *Our Little Earth* is an international newspaper for kids that provides short articles on current events and news from around the globe. Sign up to have a new issue emailed to you every two weeks, or visit their website to read articles from seven years of past editions.

<http://www.ourlittlearth.com>

Survey: *Our Little Earth* provides questions with each article which only require a recall of facts as an optional add-on. If StarrMatica created a printable worksheet of higher-level comprehension questions to go with each article, would you use them in your classroom? [Click here to let us know.](#) *It takes 10 seconds to respond. Please let us know either way. If enough of our members respond "yes," we'll invest the time to provide that service for you.*

Update: Types Addition

Last month, updates were made to the way our content is categorized. Our previous types were:

- *Virtual Manipulatives (V)*: This type contained content for instruction including animated tutorials and virtual manipulatives.
- *Practice Activities (P)*: This type contains content that provides students with questions and feedback on their answers.
- *Games (G)*: This type contains content that provides students with questions and feedback on their answers, but the content is more challenging or entertaining than content found in the practice activities category.
- *Picture Books (B)*: This type contains picture book recommendations along with content guide lesson plans for select texts.

This month, the Virtual Manipulative type was divided into two types (V and L) to help you more easily pinpoint specific resources.

- *Virtual Manipulatives (V)*: This type now contains only content that is truly a virtual manipulative such as base ten blocks or word wheels. These are open-ended, teacher directed tools that allow students to visually explore concepts.
- *Learn (L)*: This type contains animated tutorials that students can interact with independent of a teacher (or as part of a whole class or group lesson) to learn about or review a particular topic. Most of these tutorials are animated and include audio assistance.

The P, G, and B types remained the same. [Send us an email with feedback or questions about this update.](#)

20 Minute Professional Development

We know two things for sure: 1. You are incredibly busy! 2. We have some awesome ideas for effective ways you can use our content in your classroom. That's why we've created 20 minute PD webinars. Give us 20 minutes of your undivided attention at a time that is convenient for you, and we'll show you an effective way to integrate our content into your classroom. December's 20 minute PD sessions include:

How to Differentiate with Digital Content

15 Ways to Integrate Digital Content into Daily Math Instruction

How to Choose Content for a Common Core Standard

Sessions are held Wednesday and Thursday at 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30 pm EST. (2:30, 3:30, and 4:30 pm CST)

For session descriptions and to register to attend, [CLICK HERE](#).

Teacher Feature: Tararra Babaz

Meet Tararra Babaz. She teaches at T.S. Cooley Elementary Magnet School in Lake Charles, LA. She teaches 4th grade Social Studies and ELA to two classes totaling 50 students. Tararra has been using StarrMatica in her classroom since the beginning of this school year, and has presented a break-out session about how she uses our content in her classroom at a regional conference. Here is how she uses our content in her own words:



I have really enjoyed using this resource thus far. We have only skimmed the surface of all StarrMatica has to offer us.

I use StarrMatica in a whole group setting with my students when I am introducing a new skill to them. Together we will watch the video and teaching lessons as well as completing a practice or enrichment together which allows me to see how well the students are understanding. Students also use StarrMatica individually in our computer lab. There, students work on practice and complete assessments to reinforce the current skill.

StarrMatica solves the problem of searching for resources and keeping my students engaged. *I am easily able to look for a specific skill which in return cuts down on extra planning on my part.*

StarrMatica lessons and practice allow for me to replace the use of workbook pages and worksheets *therefore keeping my students engaged and involved.*

Our teacher features are posted on [our blog](#) and are housed on the [testimonials page](#) of our website.

Would you like to be a featured teacher? [Contact us!](#) We would love to hear about your experiences.

Need help finding that perfect digital resource? Email or call StarrMatica's digital content experts. We would be happy to help!
info@starmatica.com ★ 563-219-2111

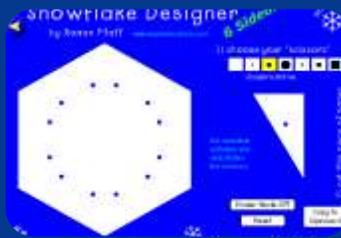


Seasonal Digital Content for Holiday Fun

Click each image to visit that site. Enjoy!

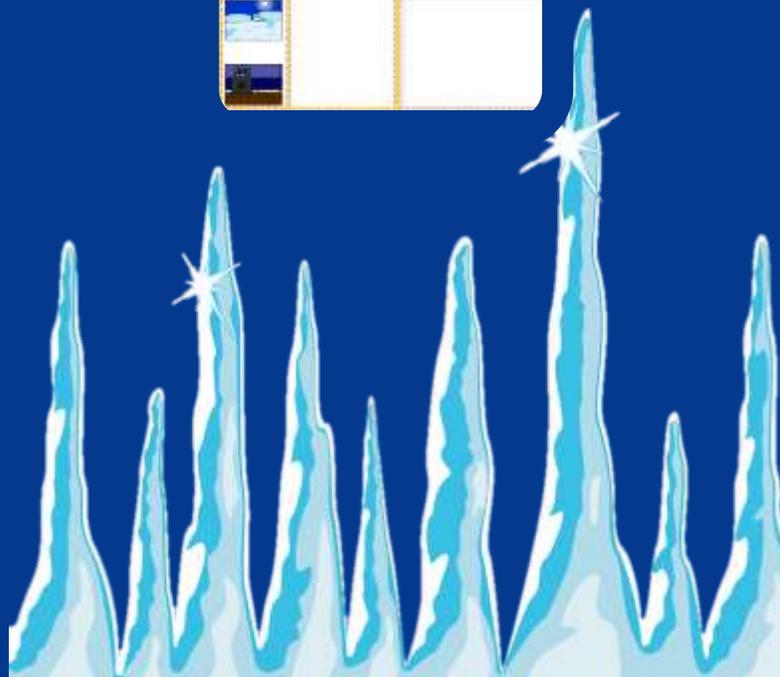


Create a Snowflake



Build A Snowman

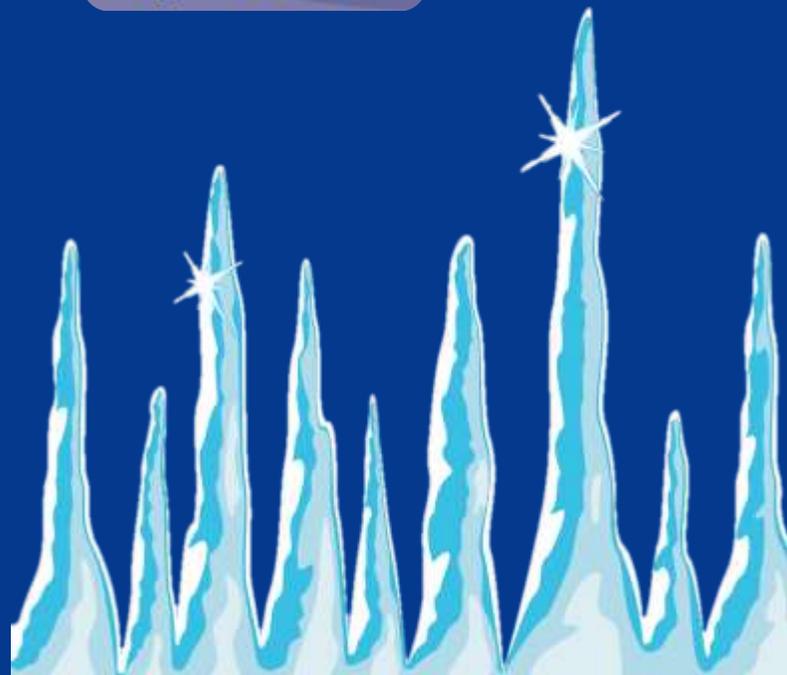
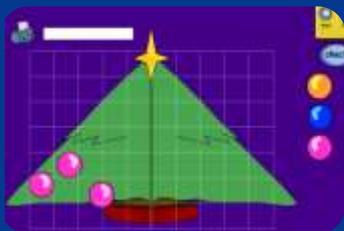
Design a Gift

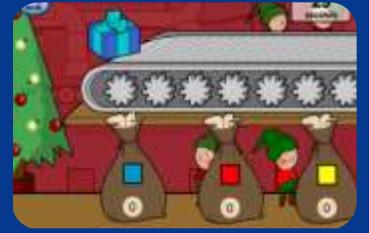


Decorate Gingerbread



Challenge Yourself with Christmas Math





Enjoy Christmas Games

