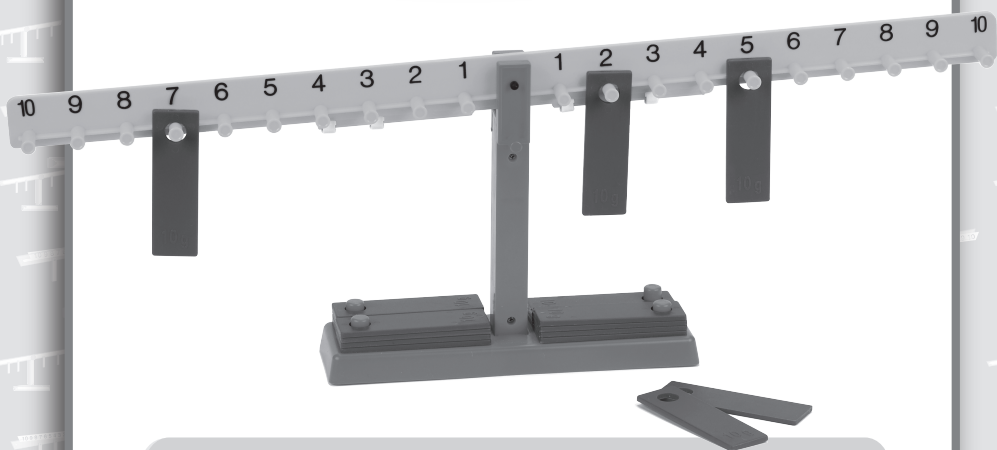
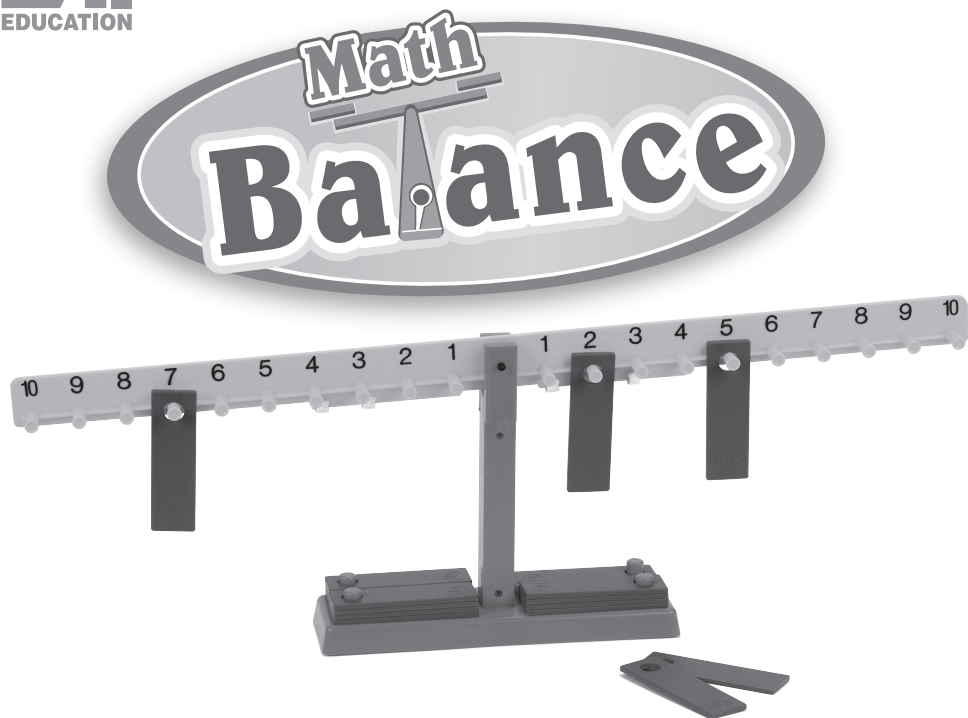


Math Balance



- ◆ Explore the relationship between number values
- ◆ Display number relationships of equal to ($=$), greater than ($>$), and/or less than ($<$).
- ◆ Demonstrate addition, subtraction, and/or multiplication by placing weights on the pegs of the balance beam.



Introduction

We all know $2+2=4$, the simplest math problem.

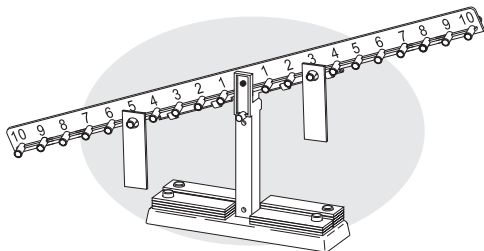
How did you learn it? How can you be so sure that is true?

The Math Balance is a simple T-shaped balance with weights that helps students solve equations and visually demonstrates number values. It allows children to hang weights under any number (1-10) on both sides of the balance. The following illustrates some of the best examples for using the Math Balance.

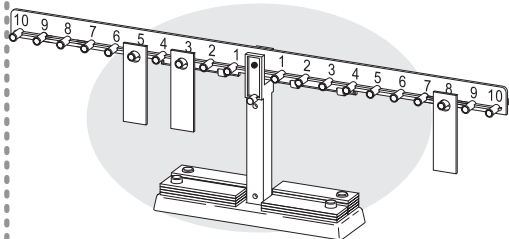
Greater than / Less than

$$5 > 3 \quad / \quad 3 < 5$$

Hang one weight under number 5 on the left side and another weight under number 3 on the right side. The student can see the difference between number 5 and number 3. That is, 5 is greater than 3, or 3 is less than 5.



Addition



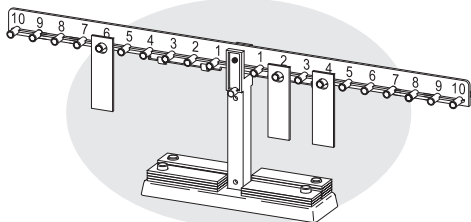
$$5+3=8$$

Hang one weight under the 3 and one under the 5 on the left side. Now give one weight to the student, and let the student figure out where to hang the weight on the right side so the sides are equal.

Subtraction

$$6-2=4$$

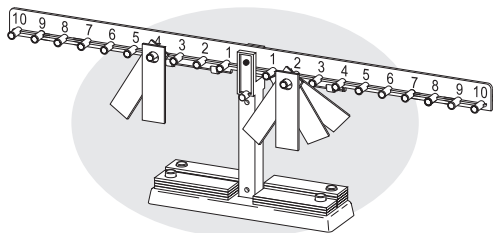
Hang one weight under the 6 on the left side and one weight under the 2 on the right side. Give one weight to the student, and let the student figure out where to hang the weight on the right side to make it balance.



Multiplication

$$4 \times 2 = 2 \times 4$$

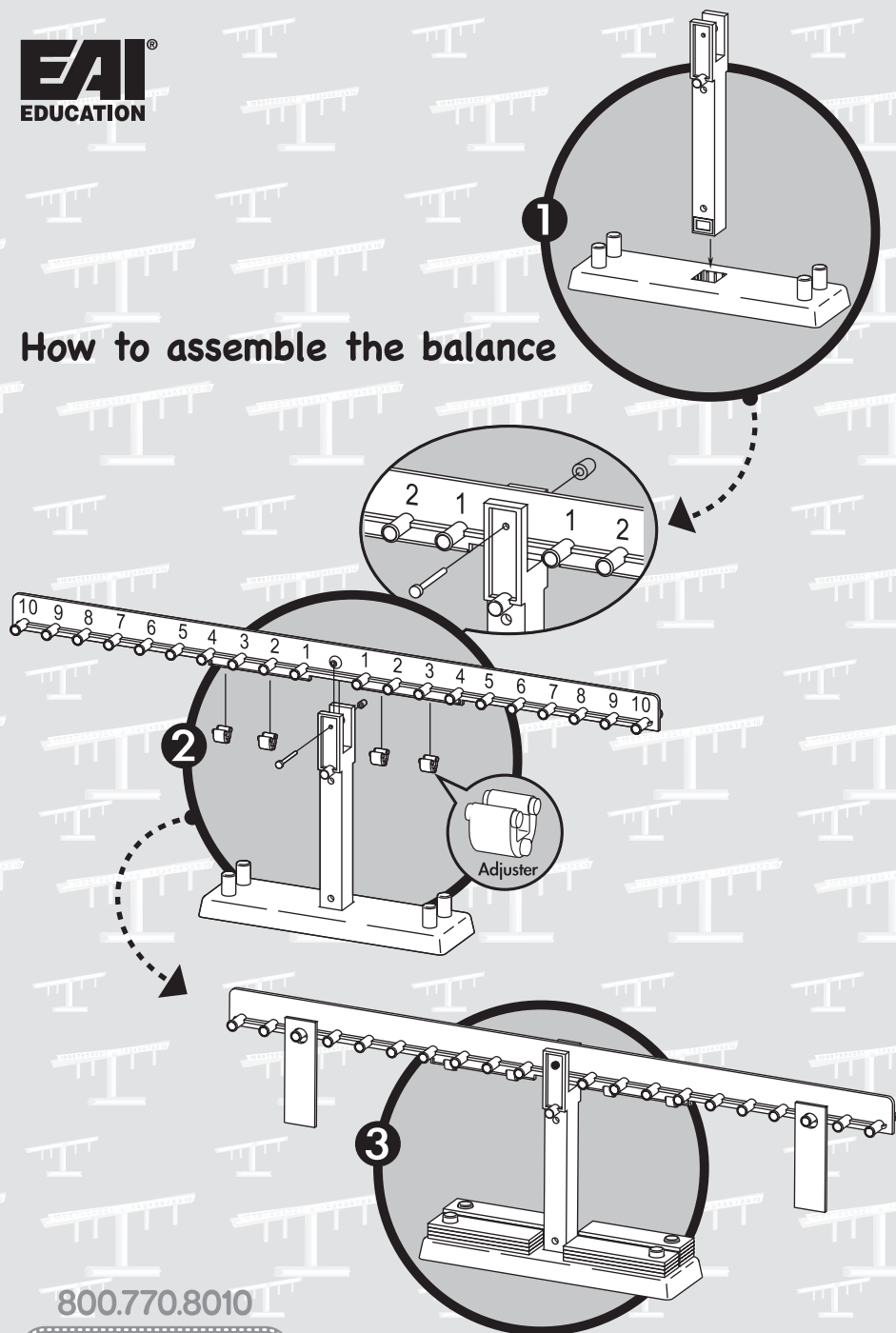
Take two weights and hang both of them under number 4 on the left hand side. Take four more weights and hang them under number 2 on the right side. Then students can observe the equation.



$$4 \times 2 = 8$$

Take 2 weights and hang them under number 4 on the left side. Give one weight to the student, and let the student figure out where to hang the weight on the right side.

How to assemble the balance



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