

TAKS - Fifth Grade Math
Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

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For the past three years I have taught fifth grade in Colorado City. When I came on board with my new teaching crew I was told that I would be in charge of the math curriculum. This was a great surprise with an added shock of terror. At the time, this crew had just been through their first year with the TAKS test. I remember having a “round table” discussion with my new team and principal about what needed to be done. Talk about a terrifying reality, with a sweet, “Welcome aboard!” My new team was great and had worked hard preparing for the unknown, but we needed to move forward. I took the challenge of the math reigns and came up with a hopeful plan.

In looking at the math TAKS test I began by breaking down each set of objectives. This proved beneficial in knowing what skills or set of TEKS each individual objective actually covered. I then looked on TEA’s, Texas Education Agency’s, website at the “blueprint” for the math test. This broke down how many questions from each objective would be tested. To look at the blueprint go to www.tea.state.tx.us, click on The Student Assessment Division link on the right hand side of the screen. A new screen will appear and you need to scroll down to Teachers and Administrators. Once on the new page, look under Test Development and click on TAKS Blueprints.

After assessing the skills information I began to look for resources to go along with my teaching curriculum. I looked for math workbooks, fun books, websites, and