Integer Football

Play this fun game and get ready for a kickoff of intensive integer computation practice. Students won't fumble positive and negative numbers again!

Directions

1. Duplicate the Integer Football reproducible for each pair. Review the terms integer, positive and negative with the class.
2. One player takes the side of the Touchdown Negatives, while the other takes the side of the Pigskin Positives. To start, each player's three counters are placed on the 0-yard line. The object is for players to get all three of their counters to their own 50-yard lines (positive or negative) first.
3. Players use a pencil and paper clip to make the spinner, spinning the clip around the pencil.
4. For each turn, a player spins the Yards spinner and moves a counter the number of positive or negative yards indicated. To clarify, draw the following number line on the board:

Suppose a player who had a counter on the 10-yard line spins a –30. Draw an arrow as below, or move a counter to show students that the player would move 30 yards to the left.

5. If all three of one player's counters land on the opposing player's 50-yard line, all three counters should be moved back to 0. A player does not need an exact spin to land on a 50-yard line. The first player to get all three counters on his or her own 50-yard line wins.

Taking It Farther

To make the game harder, duplicate the reproducible. Change ±10 and ±10 to ±5 and ±5, change ±20 and ±20 to ±15 and ±15, and change ±30 and ±30 to ±25 and ±25. Use a ruler to draw 5-yard lines between the 10-yard lines. Make copies of the new reproducible for students to play the game again.

Assessing Skills

Observe whether students understand which direction to move a counter that is already on the negative side of the board. If they spin a –10, do they move 10 yards to the left? Students may be confused and move to the –10 yard line instead.

Objectives

Students add positive and negative integers.

Skill Area

Pairs

Materials

Integer Football reproducible (p. 46)

pencil and paper clip for each pair (to make the spinner)

3 different-colored counters for each student