

5. Next, have students look at the numbers in the problem and encourage them to apply their estimation skills. This is the key to making a “reasonable guess.” Ask for a volunteer to guess how many students are in Mrs. Bright’s class. After a first attempt at an answer, have the class consider whether the number is reasonable. Is it too high or too low? Would a higher number make more sense? Would a lower one? This is the “Check” part of Guess and Check.
6. Direct students’ attention to the numbers inside the white box below the problem. Have them think about which numbers they could automatically cross out as unreasonable guesses. Invite a volunteer to come up and use the SMART pen to cross out an unreasonable guess. Ask the student to explain why he or she crossed out that number. (For example, it can’t be 40 because that’s the total number of students in both classes.)
7. Discuss the “Talk About It” question: Which number would be the most reasonable guess to use as a starting point? Call on a student to choose a number from the white box and explain why he or she chose that number. To help students understand how the Guess and Check strategy works, think aloud through the steps of solving the problem using that number. For example, say the student chose 17. You might say, “So we’re guessing that Mrs. Bright has 17 students. (Use the SMART pen to write 17 on one side of the board.) If that is true, and she has 2 more students than Mrs. Geremia, then (write:  $17 - 2 = 15$ ) that must mean that Mrs. Geremia has 15 students. Adding the students in both classes together ( $15 + 17 = 32$ ), we get 32, which is less than 40. So we know the number must be higher than 17. Let’s try another one.” Continue thinking aloud as you try another number.
8. To check the answer, click on the small red box at the bottom of the page. The box will fade out to reveal the correct answer. (Mrs. Bright has 21 students.)



#### TECH TIP

If students have trouble reaching the SMART toolbar when it’s at the top of the screen, move it within reach. Click on the up-and-down arrow on the right end of your toolbar to move the toolbar to the bottom of your SMART Board. Click on the arrow again to return the toolbar to the top.