



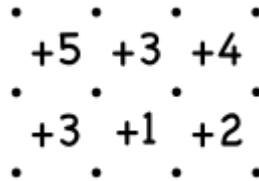
Dots & Boxes Numbered

Math Concepts: Adding small numbers, Squares, Strategy

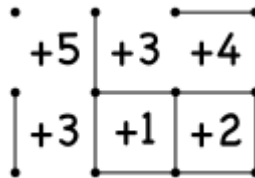
Materials: Paper and Pencil

Players: 2

Set up: Start with a shared piece of paper with an array of dots, say 3 by 4. Place numbers inside each square of dots to indicate that square's value. Pick a player to go first.



Play: On a turn, a player adds a horizontal or vertical line between two neighboring unconnected dots. If this line completes a 1 by 1 square, the player claims the number of points inside the square and has another turn.



A player is not obligated to complete a square. All lines already drawn are available for use by all players.

Goal: When all lines have been placed, the player with the most points wins.

– DISCUSSION AND TIPS –

Discuss strategies that students have developed.

When is it a bad idea to fill in a long run of squares?

For very small grids, are there clear best strategies for the first or second player?

– VARIATIONS –

Larger grids: Use larger grids of points for more challenging games.

Shapes: You can play this with a triangular grid of dots.

Subtraction: By using numbers with subtraction signs, you can introduce subtraction into this game.

