

Egyptian Multiplication

ACTIVITY

In ancient Egypt, a doubling and adding process was used for multiplication. For example, to multiply 12×24 , follow these steps:

Step 1



- Choose the larger factor in the multiplication statement (24) and double it. Put these two numbers in the doubling column (see below).
- Record the multiples of the larger factor as you keep doubling.
- Stop doubling when the multiple is greater than the smaller factor (12).

Doubling	Multiple of 24
24	1
48	2
96	4
192	8
384	16

Step 2



Select the multiples that add up to the other factor you are multiplying by ($4 + 8 = 12$).

Step 3



Add the corresponding products ($96 + 192 = 288$).

- Use the ancient Egyptian method to find the products of the expressions below and then check using your usual method.
 - 18×48
 - 23×745
- Try this with some other expressions.
- Can you explain how the Egyptian method works?

