

➤ Notes for parents. Activity next page.

The purpose of this task is to help your child:

- to consider and investigate the precision with which large numbers may be used around them day-to-day

Think about this:

- Children are often interested in large numbers and may frequently hear them used. However, given that the addition of one extra zero to a number increases its size tenfold, it is surprising that, as numbers 'get big', they can often be used somewhat casually.
- As this task may run over several days, first discuss it with your child and see if it's an investigation that interests them and that they would enjoy doing.
- You may need to be ready to assist with, discuss and encourage the 'research' too.



Activity | Big number research

Y6

Here are the **names of big numbers** and how we write them.
Tick the ones that you already know.

| Name | Number | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| thousand | 1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| million | 1 000 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| billion | 1 000 000 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| trillion | 1 000 000 000 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| quadrillion | 1 000 000 000 000 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| quintillion | 1 000 000 000 000 000 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| sextillion | 1 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

We often hear them or see big numbers in the media. Your challenge is to **look and listen** for numbers with more than 6 digits, record them on a chart like this, and try to complete each column.

Column 2: say whether it is money, kilometres, people, etc...

Column 3: say if the figure is precise or a rounded estimate.

Column 4: say who worked out or researched the amount.

| Write the number here | What does the number refer to? | Is it an <i>exact</i> figure or a <i>rounded</i> figure? | Where did the number come from? |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
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You'll probably find that, in the future, you'll listen to and look more carefully at a big number. You might wonder just how the number was calculated and how accurate it is.

