Puzzle Talk - Grade 1 Push Box (Level 1)



These facilitation suggestions are what a student-led discussion might look like when looking at puzzles in Level 1. Depending on how students respond, it likely would take one session for Level 1.

Description	• • • •	Puzzle Location: Grade 1 > Addition and Subtraction Situations with Unknowns > Push Box Topic: Teaches addition by combining stacks of boxes. Purpose of the Puzzle Talk: Focus on student thinking and developing problem solving skills using guiding questions for each step in the Problem Solving Process Preparation: View the Game in a Minute video Gather Materials: Provide students with Push Box Game Mat 01, cubes, whiteboards, and markers
	Notice and Wonder	 Display the first puzzle from Level 1. Ask students: "What do you notice? What do you wonder about this puzzle?" Allow a few students to share their thinking with the whole class.
	Predict and Justify	 Ask students to think individually about how they could solve the puzzle, then turn and share with a partner before sharing as a class. Students should provide mathematical reasoning for the idea they want to try. They can use cubes to represent the puzzle or sketch on the whiteboard. As students share their strategies, list these ideas for the class to consider.
	Test and Observe	 Select one of their solutions to try. Solve the puzzle and have students describe what happened.
	Analyze and Learn	 Ask students: "How does what happened compare to what you thought would happen?" Replay the puzzle using the same strategy. Pause the animation and ask questions such as: "What is the unknown in the puzzle?" "Can you write an equation to represent this puzzle using a question mark to represent the unknown?" For example, 3 + ? = 8. Have students work with a partner to solve the puzzle. Pause the puzzle before Jiji crosses the screen. Ask students to record the answer on their whiteboards. For example, students would write 3 + ? = 8, and ? = 5 Repeat with other puzzles in Level 1. For each puzzle: Have students represent the puzzle on their game mats and show how they would solve it. Share several examples of ways students showed their strategy on the game mats, such as drawing arrows or writing equations. You can use the animation controls to replay and examine what happens in the puzzle. If the puzzle was correct, discuss why the strategy used was successful. If the puzzle was incorrect, analyze what happened and consider how to adjust the strategy to try again.