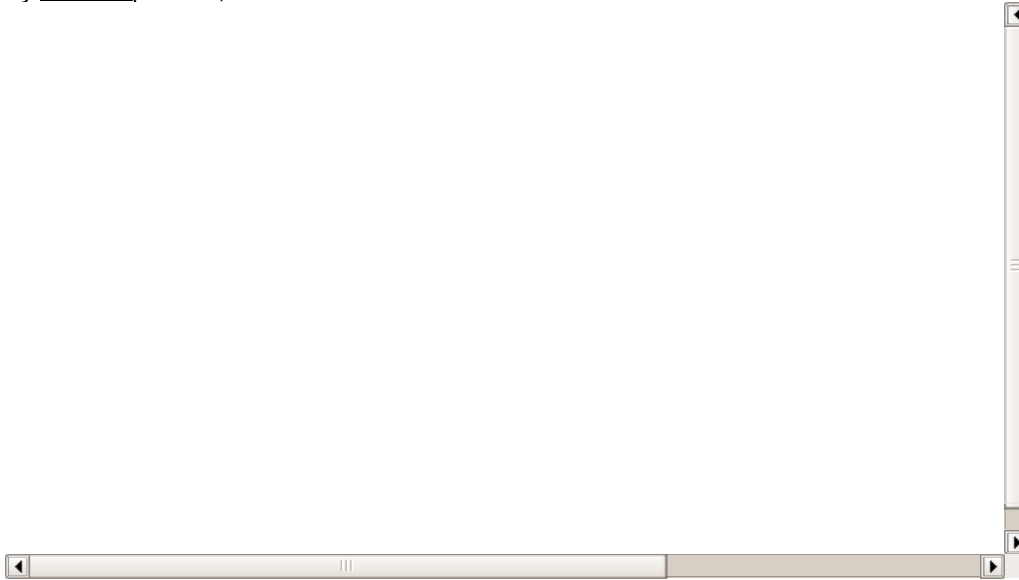


## A brief history of numerical systems

By [TED Ed](#) | Jan 23, 2017



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9... and 0. With just these ten symbols, we can write any rational number imaginable. But why these particular symbols? Why ten of them? And why do we arrange them the way we do? Alessandra King gives a brief history of numerical systems.

After showing the video, take your learners through [a short quiz](#).

Invite the senior grade learners for an open ended discussion on

"Some people think that 12 would be a better base than 10 for a numerical system. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different bases, including – but not limited to – 10 and 12."

Also watch [Is Math discovered or invented?](#) and [How High Can You Count on Your Fingers?](#)

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**Duration:**

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**Category:** Classroom Resources

**Subject:** Mathematics

**Grade:** Class 6-8

Class 9-10

Class 11-12

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