Minds in Motion

Math-maniacs: The Card Game

Activity Rundown:

It's always a good time to practice your mental math skills, so why not start right now? This game comes with many different variations that are suitable for players of all math skills! All you will need is a pack of cards and a worthy opponent.

You will need:
+ Pack of cards
+ Two players
+ Calculator to double check answers

Let's do it!

1. Shuffle the deck and make sure to assign values to the face cards before playing. (Kinds, queens, and jacks are usually 10 and aces are 1.)
2. Equally distribute the full deck of cards to both players. Each player should have a stack of cards facing down in front of them.
3. Simultaneously, both players will draw the top card on their respective stack and quickly place it face up on the table. Make sure to do this step quickly and smoothly so that both players are able to see the other's card at the same time!
4. Depending on the skill level of the players, there are few different variants on how to play this game.
   a. **Addition**: Upon seeing both cards face up, both players will race to say the sum of both cards. Whoever says the correct sum first wins both cards. If a player says an incorrect sum, the other player gets a chance to declare the sum. Should they also get it wrong, these cards go into the discard pile and one new card from each player will be played.
   b. **Subtraction**: Upon seeing both cards face up, both players will race to say the difference of both cards. Whoever says the correct difference first wins both cards. If a player says an incorrect difference, the other player gets a chance to declare the difference. Should they also get it wrong, these cards go into the discard pile and one new card from each player will be played.
   c. **Multiplication**: Upon seeing both cards face up, both players will race to say the product of both cards. Whoever says the correct product first wins both cards. If a player says an incorrect product, the other player gets a chance to declare the product. Should they also get it wrong, these cards go into the discard pile and one new card from each player will be played.

5. Whoever declares the correct sum/difference/product first wins both cards and will place them in a separate pile. For example, Player A draws and places a 5 while player B draws and places a 3. Whoever declares the correct sum of 8 first wins both cards.)

6. If the players say the correct sum/difference/product at the same time, a tie-breaker card will be drawn from one of the two player decks. (Alternate which deck this tie-breaker is pulled from.) This card will be "added" to the equation cards already on the table. For example, should Player A and Player B both declare 8 to be the sum of 5 and 3, a new card will be drawn and placed. Should it be a 6, the first to declare the correct sum of 5+3+8 wins all three cards.

7. Play until a player runs out of cards.

8. Count the number of cards you have in your "winning" pile. The player with the most cards wins!

9. Shuffle and play again!

Background:
- The answer to addition problems are called sums.
- The answer to subtraction problems are called differences.
- The answer to multiplication problems are called products.

Reach out!

We would love to hear from you about all the amazing STEM projects you are doing at home! Show us your finished products on any of the following social media platforms by tagging us or by using the following hashtags. We hope these projects have brought some excitement to your day during these difficult times.

Let us know how we did! Please click here to fill out a short survey on how well we did and what you would like to see more of in the future. Thank you!

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Facebook: **@mindsinmotion2014 & @ucactiveliving**
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