

The Bar Model - KS2 Focus

The bar model was introduced in 1983 as problem solving tool.

It has been used in ALL maths text books in Singapore since 1992.

Children of the same age in Singapore and the USA were asked this question: Laura had \$24.0. She spent $\frac{5}{8}$ of it. How much money does she have left?

In the USA (where the children do not use bar model) about 25% of the children answered correctly. In Singapore over 80% were able to solve the problem.

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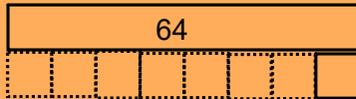
Bar model

It is a way of visualising the problem before beginning to calculate.

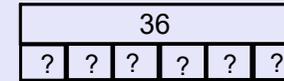
Tom has a bag of 64 marbles. His friend gives him 28 more. How many does he have now?

64	28
?	

Guess what? The sum of 2 numbers is 64. One number is 7 times as big as the other. What is the smaller number?



Mr Smith had a piece of wood that was 36cm long. He cut it into 6 equal pieces. How long was each piece?



And finally ...

Laura had \$240. She spent $\frac{5}{8}$ of it. How much money does she have left?

