

Name _____ Date _____ Time taken _____

What this sheet trains

Divided attention - holding a second rule in mind while your main attention is busy elsewhere. This is the skill behind listening to a teacher while taking notes, or checking your working while solving the next step.

Strategy: anchor and sweep. Give the main task your focus and let the second task run as a quick, automatic check - do not swap your full attention back and forth.

1 Read and tally

Main task: read the passage once. Second task: the counting rule below.

Counting rule

Every time you read the word gear or gears, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

In 1901 sponge divers working off the Greek island of Antikythera found a wreck loaded with statues. Among the bronze and marble was a lump of corroded metal about the size of a shoebox. It sat in a museum for decades before anyone realised what it held. Inside, pressed flat by two thousand years under the sea, were the remains of more than thirty bronze gears.

The Antikythera mechanism was a calculating machine. Turning a handle on the side drove a train of gears, and the gears drove pointers around dials on the front and the back. One pointer followed the Sun, another the Moon, and a small ball turned from black to white to show the phase. The teeth of each gear were cut by hand, and the ratios between the gears matched the ratios of real astronomical cycles, so the machine could predict an eclipse years before it happened.

X-ray scanning has now mapped gears that are still buried in the corrosion, and working models built from those scans turn smoothly. We still do not know who made it. It is tempting to treat the mechanism as a freak, one genius working alone, because nothing of the kind survives from the next thousand years. The harder conclusion is that Greek workshops knew how to cut precise gears as a matter of routine, and we would have no idea of it at all if one cargo ship had not sunk in the right place.

Tally here - one mark per gear or gears

Make the marks as you read, then write your total before turning the page.

Total

1 Questions - cover the passage first

Answer from memory. Do not look back at the passage.

My tally total

From page 1

Q1. Where was the Antikythera mechanism found, and by whom?

Q2. How did turning the handle let the machine show the position of the Sun and Moon?

Q3. Why do you think the object was ignored in a museum for so long?

Q4. What does the writer suggest the mechanism tells us about Greek workshops in general?

2 Grid sweep with a running count

Main task: cross out targets. Second task: keep a count in your head.

Rules - read both before you start, then start the timer

Main: cross out every number that is a multiple of 6.

Second: count - silently, no marks - how many numbers end in 5. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

13	39	40	55	18	22	20	63	77	81	46	38	10	53	15	68
91	47	69	52	12	29	53	15	12	47	34	49	33	76	39	38
63	63	53	14	69	28	13	47	61	37	36	57	20	56	82	60
52	45	77	75	41	91	65	58	75	31	53	27	36	67	46	95
22	54	52	24	69	71	59	20	68	26	78	66	51	53	19	77
75	58	18	80	71	92	12	64	93	50	58	79	50	72	43	91
14	23	35	29	95	57	68	16	27	61	94	47	12	47	16	44
51	15	33	44	91	10	27	30	37	94	86	14	14	64	27	95

Stop the timer when the grid is finished, not when you write the total.

Numbers ending in 5

Write it once the grid is done

3 Copy and total

Main task: copy each row of digits. Second task: keep a running total.

Rules

Main: copy each three-digit group into the box beside it, in order.

Second: add the middle digit of every row to a running total as you go.

Write the running total in the box at the end of each row - from memory, not by going back and adding up at the end.

	Copy here	Running total
8 6 2		
9 5 2		
3 1 9		
7 7 3		
2 3 4		
2 6 9		
6 7 6		
9 8 6		
5 9 1		
6 9 5		
2 1 4		
7 5 9		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Which task did you lose your grip on first, and why do you think it was that one?

Q2. How well do you follow a lesson while you are also writing notes from the board?

Q3. Does counting get easier or harder when the reading becomes interesting?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
gear or gears

7

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 6

15

Task 2 · counted
ending in 5

13

Task 3 · final total
middle digits

67

Task 1 - suggested answers

Q1. Sponge divers found it in an ancient shipwreck off the Greek island of Antikythera.

Q2. The handle drove a train of gears whose ratios copied real astronomical cycles, moving pointers around dials.

Q3. It looked like a worthless lump of corroded metal, and nobody expected such a machine to exist.

Q4. That precise gearwork was probably ordinary skilled craft, not a one-off miracle, and most of that tradition is simply lost.

Notes for the parent or teacher

- Mark the two tasks separately. A student who scores well on the main task and loses the count has not failed - that is the normal pattern, and it is the thing worth discussing.
- Do not prompt or remind during a task. The reminder is the skill.
- An untimed run is a valid run. Record the time only if the student wants to beat it next week.
- Repeat the sheet after a week rather than straight away. Spacing is what makes the gain stick.
- This is attention practice, not an assessment. It does not diagnose anything, and no sheet of this kind should be read as a measure of ability.