

GEOMETRY THROUGH ART

SQ10196

The '99 Squares' SQUARE

ones	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
tens	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
twenties	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
thirties	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
forties	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
fifties	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
sixties	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
seventies	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
eighties	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
nineties	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

This grid of squares is called "The 99 Squares Square" even though it has 100 squares. All the horizontal rows have ten numbers, beginning at the top with ones, then tens, twenties, and so on. It is a useful grid for doing arithmetic.

To add ones, you count horizontally to the right, to subtract you count horizontally to the left. To add tens you count vertically down, and to subtract tens you count vertically up. Write out some numbers (1-99) to add and/or subtract. See how much quicker you can do it using this grid.

What does this grid tell you about the usefulness and meaning of zero?