We tried 25 number line tools: the best free ones, and what we built

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The best free number lines for teachers, from Mr Barton Maths to the Math Learning Center, what makes one great on a projector, and the free one Peabody built.

The best free number lines for a classroom are Mr Barton Maths' number lines for teaching jump strategies, the Math Learning Center's Number Line for drawing and sharing, and Peabody's own for typed sums that hop, a whole-class estimation game and worksheets with answer pages. Peabody (peabody.kids) wrote this, then rebuilt its own number line from what we found, and Peabody is free through the end of 2026. Apart from our own number line, none of these are ours, and nobody paid to be listed.

We opened 25 number line tools: interactive ones, printable ones and a few games. Every fact about another tool was read on its own page on 29 October 2026, and where a page did not say something, such as whether ads appear, we say so. The "best for" column is our own view, not the makers'.

The quick answer

- To teach how to add and subtract with jumps: Mr Barton Maths. You type 37 + 25 and it hops in tens and ones, or by bridging to the next ten.
- To draw on a number line and share it: the Math Learning Center's Number Line, free on the web and iPad, with a share code.
- For typed sums that hop, a team estimation game and worksheets with answer pages on one page: Peabody's number line.
- For blank worksheets with some labels hidden: Supercoloring's generator.
- For negative numbers with real-life stories: PhET.

Ten number lines compared

- Tool: Mr Barton Maths · What it is: Two lines: add and subtract, and multiply. Typed sums, strategies, predict mode · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: Says no login; ads not stated · Best for: Jump strategies on the board
- Tool: Math Learning Center · What it is: Whole, fraction, decimal and open lines with jumps, drawing and share codes · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: None seen; no sign-in · Best for: Drawing and sharing
- Tool: Peabody · What it is: Every number type; typed sums that hop in tens and ones or bridge 10; a team estimation game; pen, covers; worksheets with answers · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: No ads, no sign-in · Best for: A whole class at the board, then paper

• Tool: Polypad · What it is: A canvas with a number line tile, jump arcs, a pen and other manipulatives · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: None seen; no login to use · Best for: A line beside other tools
• Tool: Mathsframe ITP · What it is: Two markers that show the sum and difference · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: Not stated · Best for: Distance between numbers
• Tool: Topmarks · What it is: Counting line, hide and reveal, hops, multiples · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: Ad frames seen · Best for: Younger children
• Tool: Toy Theater · What it is: Eight small lines: jumps, drawing, bars, rounding, time · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: Ads labelled · Best for: Skip counting
• Tool: MathsBot · What it is: Fractions or decimals, random labels hidden, multi-line · Cost: Free; £3 a month for no ads (as of 29 October 2026) · Ads or sign-in: Ads in the free version · Best for: Fill-in-the-labels screens
• Tool: PhET · What it is: Two simulations on integers and operations · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: None seen · Best for: Negatives
• Tool: Supercoloring · What it is: Printable line maker · Cost: Free · Ads or sign-in: Not stated · Best for: Custom blanks

What makes a great number line for a classroom

Reading the 25 side by side, the good ones share a handful of things.

Jumps that write the sum

The number line earns its place in grades 1 to 4 as a picture of adding and subtracting. The best tools draw the jump and write the equation beside it, so a child sees 37 + 25 as +10, +10, +5. Mr Barton Maths goes furthest: it splits a jump in ones, in tens then ones, or by bridging to the next ten, and it always stops at zero when a jump crosses it.

Every kind of number on one line

Whole numbers with your own start and step, negatives, fractions and decimals. The Math Learning Center and Peabody cover all four. A line that only counts from 0 to 20 is fine for kindergarten and then runs out.

Hide it, then reveal it

Estimating where a number sits, before the label appears, is what a number line is best for. Barton has a Predict mode, Topmarks and MathsBot hide numbers, and Peabody puts a question mark on a marker until you tap it, has cover cards to lift, and turns estimation into a team game. MathsBot's "values revealed" box shows a random share of the labels and refreshes with a button, which makes a fill-in-the-missing-labels screen in a second.

Something to draw with

The Math Learning Center's page lists drawing tools for showing strategies, Toy Theater has a Draw version, and Peabody's line has a pen in four colours. A teacher at the board wants to circle a gap or write a number.

Plain, large and ad-free on the projector

An advert on the big screen is a distraction for children. The pages we read for Topmarks and Toy Theater show ads or ad frames, MathsBot sells an ad-free membership, and Math Playground sells an ad-free option for its game. The Math Learning Center, Polypad and Didax showed none when we opened them.

A printable version

Many teachers want the same line on paper for an exit ticket. Supercoloring's generator is the most flexible we found, with random hidden labels and a Scramble button; Barton prints blank lines and questions with an answer page.

The best ones, one at a time

Mr Barton Maths: number lines for adding, subtracting and multiplying

The most complete teaching line we found. It has four modes (explore, compare two lines, practise, and find the missing number), keyboard shortcuts for everything, 64 investigation questions with teacher notes under the addition tool, and a multiplication line that walks to show why a negative times a negative is positive. The page says nothing is sent anywhere or stored on the device. Open it here. One limit: we saw whole-number and tenths lines but no fraction lines.

The Math Learning Center's Number Line

A free app from a nonprofit that publishes the Bridges in Mathematics curriculum. It offers whole, fraction (halves to twelfths), decimal and negative lines, or a custom line with or without ticks, jumps above and below, and sharing by image, link or an eight-character code. It opened with no sign-in. One limit: we saw no way to print blank lines. Open it here.

Polypad

A free canvas with a Number Line tile (Start and Step boxes and a draggable pin) and a set of jump arcs you drag on, next to a pen, text and the other manipulatives. One limit: the line itself is basic, and we did not see fraction labels on it. Polypad.

Mathsframe's ITP Number Line

Two markers in numbered boxes show the sum and the difference between the numbers. You can hide the numbers and change the range. Its page says these programs stay free without a subscription. One limit: one simple tool, with no drawing or printing that we saw. Mathsframe.

Topmarks

A counting line for ages 4 to 12 with decimal steps, hops and multiples to 12, plus sibling games for placing, comparing and rounding. One limit: ad frames loaded on the page when we looked. Topmarks.

Toy Theater

Eight small number line tools, including jumps you resize, a drawing line, a rounding line with a curved arrow, and a day planned in five-minute blocks. One limit: ads are labelled on the page, and we saw no written equation. Toy Theater.

MathsBot

Set the start, the end and the partitions, show fractions as mixed, improper or simplified, or hide values. The Multi-Number Line stacks several lines and can rotate. One limit: the free version has adverts, since the £3 monthly membership lists "No adverts" as a benefit. MathsBot.

PhET

Number Line: Integers compares integers and teaches absolute value; Number Line: Operations adds and subtracts positives and negatives using net worth as the story. One limit: integers only, with nothing to print. Operations.

Supercoloring's Number Line Generator

Set the start, end and increment (up to 25 intervals a line), choose whether each line repeats, continues or randomises its range, and hide labels at random or every second or third one. Its page says worksheets made with it are free to print and use, including commercially. One limit: it prints only, and the page does not say whether the generator needs an account. Supercoloring.

Math-Drills and Math Salamanders

Two long-running free printable shelves: Math-Drills (counting, skip counting, jumps on lines) and Math Salamanders (blank lines with 2 to 11 divisions, integers, fractions, decimals). One limit: both are fixed sheets, not a generator.

Games worth a look

Pearl Diver from the Math Snacks project has you dive to a number on a line to fetch a pearl, and Math Playground's Bin, Bing, Bingo finds fractions on a number line. One limit for both: they are student games, not lines you can teach with.

Ways to use a number line in class

1. Predict first. Hide the numbers, ask where 37 goes on a 0 to 100 line, then reveal it.
2. Name the jump, then draw it. Say "plus three" before the arc appears.
3. Bridge to ten. For 37 + 25, jump to 40, then 60, then 62.
4. Subtract through zero. Start at 3 and jump back 5 to land on ?2.
5. Make two fractions meet. Put 3/4 on a line cut into fourths, then cut it into eighths and see 6/8 sit on the same spot.
6. Zoom between. Show there are numbers between 0.4 and 0.5.
7. Skip count by 25s or 100s. Link it to money and place value.
8. Exit ticket. Print six blank lines with the numbers hidden and ask students to place three given numbers.
9. Open line. Mark only a start, a stop and an end, and draw the jumps you would use.

How to choose

• You teach grades 1 to 4 and want jump strategies: Mr Barton Maths first, then the Math Learning Center.
• You want to draw and send a finished line to a colleague: the Math Learning Center.
• You want one tool for the projector and the photocopier: Peabody's number line, which also prints worksheets with answer pages.
• You want the whole class guessing at once: Peabody's Where's the flag?, with two to four teams.
• You teach negatives: PhET for the story, then any line to practise.
• You want worksheets in a minute: Supercoloring's generator or Math-Drills.
• You can't have ads on the board: check each page, because several of the plain-looking ones carry them.

What we built at Peabody, and why

Peabody's number line is for a teacher at a projector, and we rebuilt it after reading the tools above. As of 29 October 2026, this is what it does.

• Type a sum and watch it hop. Type 37 + 25, 62 ? 25, ?4 ? (?3), 3/4 + 1/2 or 0.3 + 0.5 and a little round hopper hops it along the line. Choose tens then ones (37, 47, 57, 62), bridge 10 (37, 40, 60, 62), by ones or one jump; a jump through zero always stops at zero. Space takes one hop, P plays them all, and the equation builds as it goes: "37 … plus 10 … plus 10

… plus 5 … makes 62". If the sum does not fit the line on screen, it picks a line that does.

- The line plays its numbers. Sound is off until you turn it on. Then every landing plays a note: zero is a soft low home note, positive numbers climb a major scale and negative numbers fall down a minor one, so counting on sounds like a rising tune and children hear the sign.
- Where's the flag? The numbers vanish from the line, the board asks where a number is, and two to four colour teams place their pins. Reveal raises the flag, writes each team's distance and gives the closest a point. A second mode, Higher or lower, greys out the part of the line each guess rules out.
- A pen and cover cards. Draw on the line in four colours, rub out, undo. Drop a cover card over a jump or an answer and tap it to lift it.
- Worksheets with answer pages. Besides blank lines, print Place the number, Missing numbers or Jump equations on the line you set up, each with an answer page and a sheet number that prints the same questions again.

It still does what it did: whole numbers counted in steps from 1 to 1,000, negatives, fractions to twelfths in lowest terms and decimals to hundredths, markers that snap to the marks, jumps you tap or type, zoom, hidden numbers, Paper, Night and Chalk colours and full screen, with no ads and no sign-in. Nothing about your class leaves your browser.

We rank it second on our own list, behind Mr Barton Maths. Barton still has more for an investigation unit: 64 questions with teacher notes, a Compare mode with two lines, and a line for multiplying. The Math Learning Center still does custom tick marks on an open line and shares a finished picture by code, which ours does not yet do.

See Peabody's number line, and the full Top 20 number line tools list, which says where each tool is free, where it has ads and what each leaves out. For children reading on their own at home, Peabody's free stories are free through the end of 2026.

Questions

What is the best free number line for teachers?

For a whole class at the board, Peabody's number line: typed sums that hop, a team estimation game and worksheets with answer pages. For jump strategies with investigation questions, Mr Barton Maths' number lines. For drawing and sharing, the Math Learning Center's Number Line. All three are free.

Can I print a blank number line for free?

Yes. Supercoloring's generator lets you set the range, step and hidden labels, Math-Drills and Math Salamanders have ready-made sheets, and Peabody's number line prints one to twelve blank lines per page, or worksheets with an answer page.

What is an open number line?

A line with no printed marks, where students mark only the numbers they need and draw jumps between them. It is used to show a strategy such as bridging to the next ten.

How do you show negative numbers on a number line?

Start the line below zero, for example at ?10, then place a marker or draw a jump that crosses zero. PhET's two simulations teach negatives through elevation, account balances and net worth.

Do number line tools collect student data?

Most pages do not say. Mr Barton Maths states that nothing is sent anywhere or stored on the device, and Peabody's number line keeps everything in your browser. Do not type student names into a tool unless the page says where the text goes.

Is Peabody's number line free?

Yes. It has no ads and no sign-in, and Peabody is free through the end of 2026.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/free-number-line-tools-for-teachers