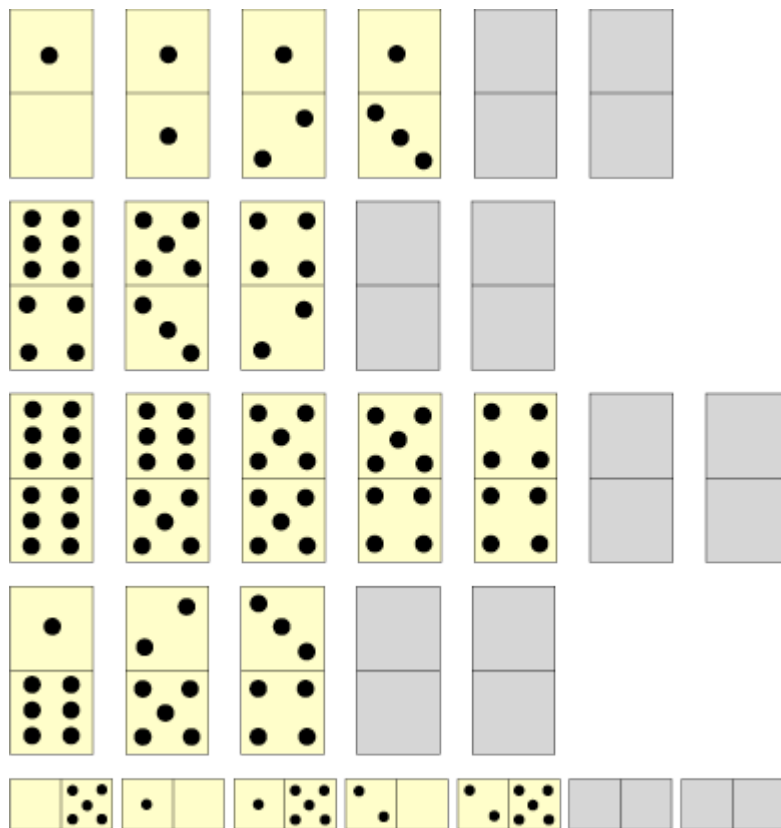


Domino Sequences

<http://nrich.maths.org/241>

What might the next two dominoes be in each of these sequences?

Can you explain why you chose those two dominoes?



You Will Need:

- A standard set of dominoes
- Recording sheets are available for printing from the site

This activity is taken from the NRICH website and features on the Hands On Maths Roadshow: <http://www.mmp.maths.org/roadshow>. It also appears on the curriculum mapping document: <http://nrich.maths.org/curriculum>

Why do this problem?

This problem introduces sequences in a simple way using a familiar resource. The sequences become increasingly complex so that there is also a challenge for learners.

Possible approach

You might need to spend some time exploring dominoes in general before tackling this problem, depending on how familiar the children are with dominoes.

Look at the first sequence together, perhaps using giant dominoes on the floor, or some on the interactive whiteboard. Ask children to talk in pairs about what they notice and then share ideas with the whole group. Then invite them to suggest how the pattern could be continued, focusing on their explanations and justifications.

Once the learners have tried this first one together, they should be able to work in their pairs on the rest of the problem.

Key questions

What do you notice about the numbers at the top of the dominoes? What will the next one be?

What do you notice about the numbers at the bottom of the dominoes? What will the next one be?

Can you explain the pattern?

Possible extension

Learners could use dominoes to make their own sequences for a friend to continue. They could make some sequences with a nine-spot set of dominoes.

Possible support

Having a number line or number square available to mark off numbers might help children identify a pattern.