

Target Os and Xs



Topics: Strategy, number sense, fluency, mental math

Materials: Target Os and Xs game board, sheet protector, a deck of playing cards, two dry erase markers of different colors, and a random number generator (dice or website www.random.org).

Players: two

Recommended Grades: 2-8

Common Core Standards: MP1, MP3, MP6, MP7

Target Os and Xs is the game of tic-tac-toe played with a deck of cards and some flexible thinking with numbers.

Why We Love Target Os and Xs

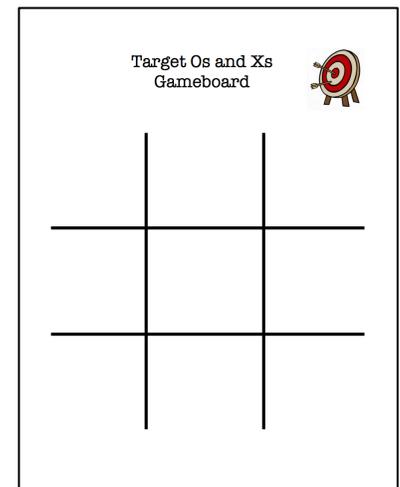
Success with the game of Target Xs and Os is dependent on the cards you draw and how flexible you are with numbers and operations. While it starts off as a game of speed, Target Os and Xs quickly becomes a game of thoughtful manipulation of numbers to make one of the target numbers on the game board. The first person to get three of their symbol in a row, wins the game.

Setting up the Game Board

Use dice or an online Random Number Generator to generate nine numbers from 1 to 20 to place in the nine regions of the Tic-tac-toe board. It is okay to have numbers repeated on the game board.

How to Play

Once the game board is set up, deal each player 6 cards from a deck with the face cards removed. The first player to use two or more cards in an equation to make one of the target numbers, shares their equation, and marks their symbol on that space on the game board. The cards used in the equation are then discarded and replaced with new cards from the top of the deck. The second player then takes a turn to make a target number and mark their symbol on the board. Game play continues in this manner until a player to gets three of their symbols in a row to win the game.



Variations

1. With older children use random numbers from 1-50 on the game board.
2. With students in grades 6 through 8 use random numbers from 1-100 and all of the cards in the deck. (jack = 11, queen = 12, and king = 13)
3. Play on a 4 x 4 or 5 x 5 game board

*Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwIfKu_fdqE&t=14s for a fun demonstration of this game.

Target Os and Xs Gameboard

