

ZMATH 2001a.00028

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From "a gelosia"-multiplication to Genaille's small sticks. (Dalla moltiplicazione 'a gelosia' ai bastoncini di Genaille.)

Basso, M. et al., Numeri e proprietà. ., 23-28 (1994).

We present an activity developed in two classes: a top grade of primary school (10–11) and a first grade of secondary school (11–12). The topics concern, at a general level, "mathematics in history" and, at a more particular level, with reflections on the positional system, the algorithm of multiplication, analysis and comparison of different representations, use of specific language, argumentation. We have examined from these points of view three phases of the evolution for calculating multiplications: the so-called "a gelosia" method (XVI century), Nepero's small sticks (1617) and Genaille's small sticks (end of XIX century). (Orig.)

Classification: A30