Skill: Solve 1-step problems using multiplication	Year: 1/2
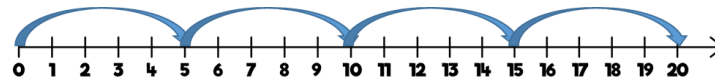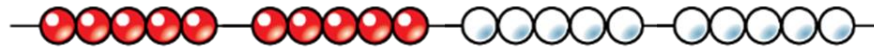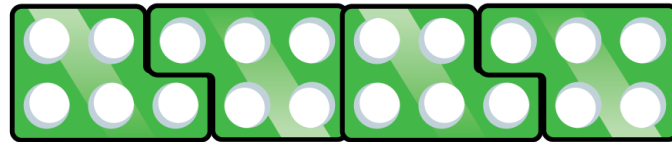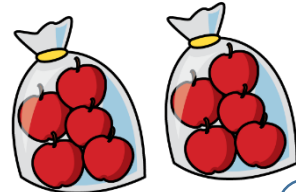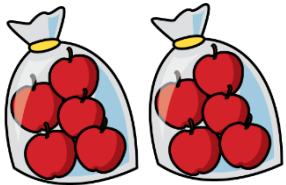
One bag holds 5 apples.
How many apples do 4 bags hold?
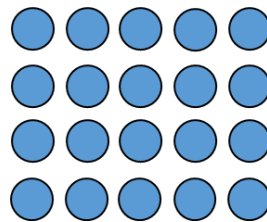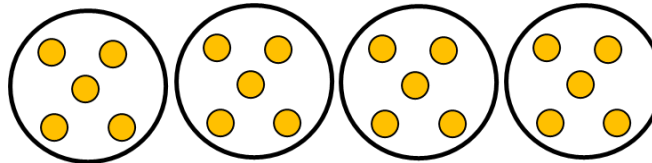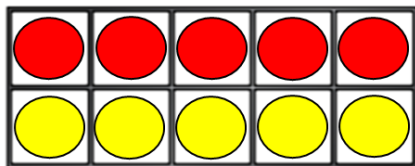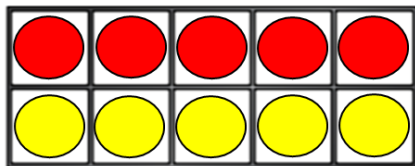
$5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 20$

$4 \times 5 = 20$

$5 \times 4 = 20$

Children represent multiplication as repeated addition in many different ways.

In Year 1, children use concrete and pictorial representations to solve problems. They are not expected to record multiplication formally.

In Year 2, children are introduced to the multiplication symbol.

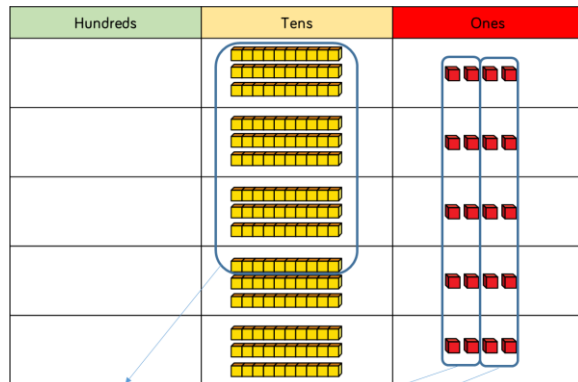| Skill: Multiply 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers	Year: 3/4

Hundreds	Tens	Ones

$$34 \times 5 = 170$$

	H	T	O	
		3	4	
×			5	
		2	0	(5 × 4)
+	1	5	0	(5 × 30)
	1	7	0	

	H	T	O
		3	4
×			5
	1	7	0
		1	2

Hundreds	Tens	Ones
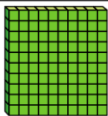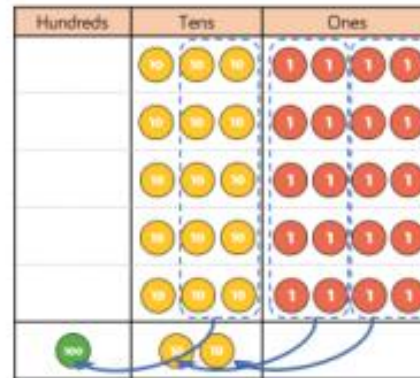
Informal methods and the expanded method are used in Year 3 before moving on to the short multiplication method in Year 4.
Place value counters should be used to support the understanding of the method rather than supporting the multiplication, as children should use times table knowledge.

Skill: Multiply 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers	Year: 4

Hundreds	Tens	Ones

$$245 \times 4 = 980$$

	H	T	O
	2	4	5
×			4
	9	8	0
	1	2	

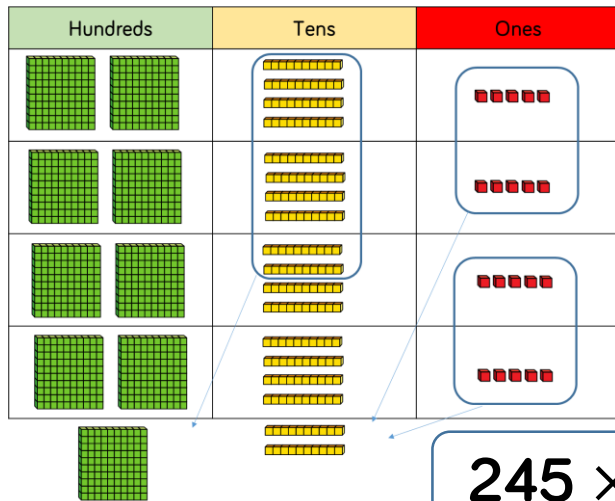| Hundreds	Tens	Ones
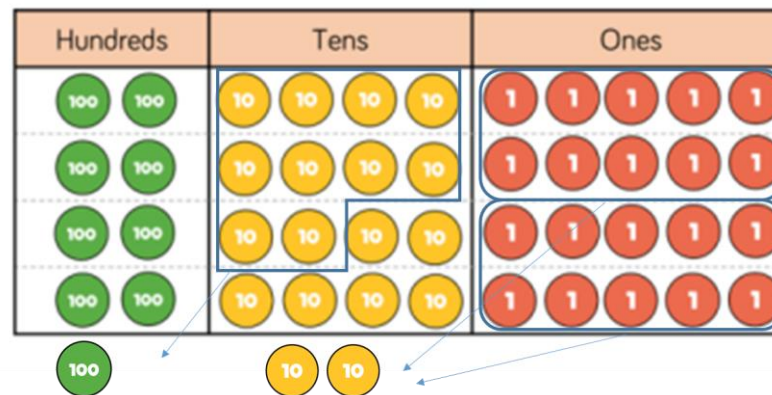
When moving to 3-digit by 1-digit multiplication, encourage children to move towards the short, formal written method.

Base 10 and place value counters continue to support the understanding of the written method. Limit the number of exchanges needed in the questions and move children away from resources when multiplying larger numbers.

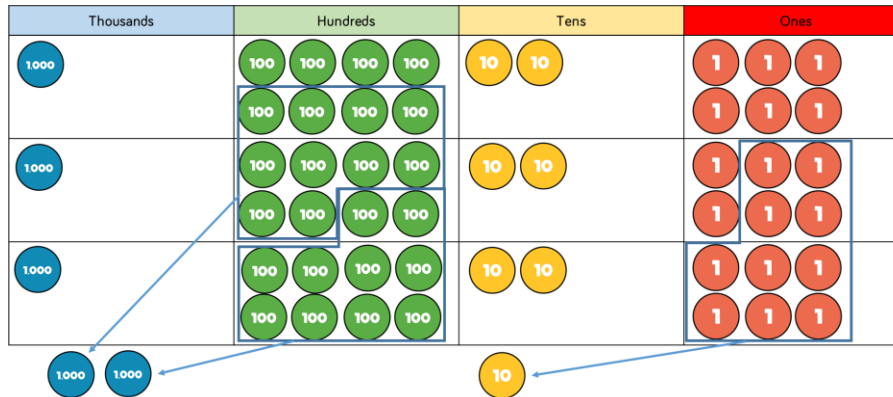| Skill: Multiply 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers	Year: 5

$$1{,}826 \times 3 = 5{,}478$$

	Th	H	T	O
	1	8	2	6
×				3
	5	4	7	8
	2		1	

When multiplying 4-digit numbers, place value counters are the best manipulative to use to support children in their understanding of the formal written method.

If children are multiplying larger numbers and struggling with their times tables, encourage the use of multiplication grids so children can focus on the use of the written method.

| | Skill: Multiply 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers | Year: 5/6 |

TTh	Th	H	T	O
	2	7	3	9
×			2	8
2 ₂	1 ₅	9 ₃	1 ₇	2
5 ₁	4	7 ₁	8	0
7	6	6	9	2
		₁		

$2{,}739 \times 28 = 76{,}692$

When multiplying 4-digits by 2-digits, children should be confident in using the formal written method.

If they are still struggling with times tables, provide multiplication grids to support when they are focusing on the use of the method.

Consider where exchanged digits are placed and make sure this is consistent.