

How Much is a Million?

Learning Target: Students will identify the place values of whole numbers through millions. Using a place value chart, students will write and read numbers through millions in standard form.

Activity: To activate prior knowledge, have students brainstorm times and places they have encountered large numbers, such as the year (i.e. 2009), cost of a vehicle, etc. For the vehicle example, ask students what happens if you add a zero to the cost of the car? Explain how this changes the value of the number. Have students discuss why it is important to be accurate about large numbers.

Then, read aloud *How Much is a Million?* by Stephen Kellogg. After reading the book, students will answer the question, “How Much is a Million?” Model how to construct a place value chart. (See chart below.) Then give students a piece of card stock so that they can make their own place value chart.

Millions			Thousands			Ones		
Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Hundreds	Tens	Ones

Explain to students how to write numbers in standard form. For example, demonstrate how the number **41, 311, 612** is written in standard form. Show students how they can use the place value chart to help them read and place numbers accurately. Also, explain how to align the numbers in their place value positions. See example below.

Millions			Thousands			Ones		
Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
	4	1	3	1	1	6	1	2

Repeat this process by assigning different numbers for students to write on the place value chart. Walk around the room to monitor students’ progress and to provide feedback. Ask for volunteers to provide answers. You can also use a document camera to display responses. This allows students to crosscheck their answers.

Formative Assessment: At the end of the activity, provide 5 numbers for students to write in standard form through the millions place. Using their place value charts, students will record



their responses. Students will also be asked to read one of their responses for accuracy. Collect these charts to determine if students have met the learning target.