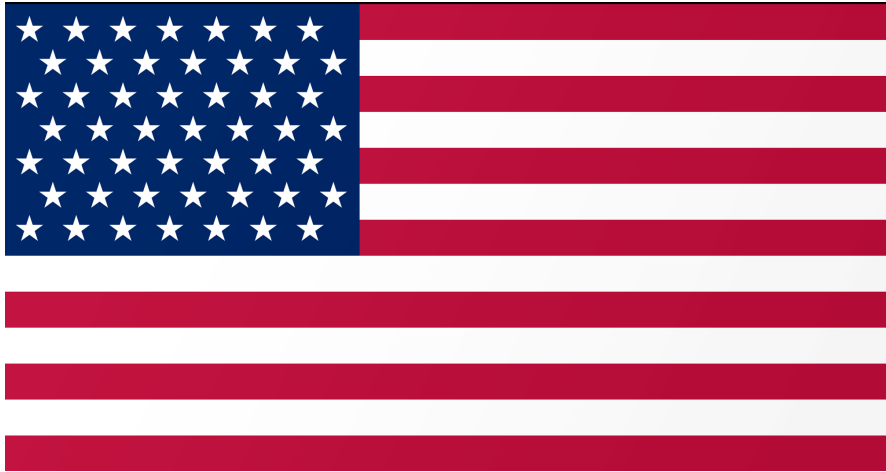


**Sets and Venn Diagrams Part 1**  
UCLA Olga Radko Math Circle Beginners 2  
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**Warm-up:**

What colors do we see on the American Flag?



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Today, we're going to be talking about *sets*. A *set* is a clearly defined collection of distinct objects. Note that this is not really a definition. To define means to explain in simpler terms. Instead, all we do is replace one word, a *set*, by another, a *collection*. Plus, the meaning of the words to clearly define is not clearly defined. The problem is that the notion of a set is as fundamental as it is deep. It is impossible to explain it in simpler terms. The best we can do at the moment is to show a bunch of examples.

**Problem 1:** Let's start by considering the factors of 6.

a. *What are these factors?*

i. \_\_\_\_\_

b. We can introduce notation to represent them, *a set*. This will be written with *curly braces*, { and }. In a set, the order doesn't matter. Let's write the set of factors of 6 and call it S.

$$S = \{ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \}$$

- c. Let's order these factors from smallest to largest. (Don't forget the curly braces)

$$S_1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

- d. We can introduce another set of notation, an **ordered set or a list**. This is given by *round brackets*, ( and ), or *parentheses*.

- i. *What do you think is the difference between a **set** and a **list**?*

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- ii. Let's write the list of factors of 6 from least to greatest. (Don't forget the braces)

$$L_1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

- e. Consider the two sets and two lists of letters:

$$S_1 = \{C, A, T\} \qquad S_2 = \{A, C, T\}$$

$$L_1 = (C, A, T) \qquad L_2 = (A, C, T)$$

- i. *Does  $S_1 = S_2$ ? How do you know?*

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- ii. *Does  $L_1 = L_2$ ? How do you know?*

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- f. *Returning to the warmup, if we let  $S_c$  be the set of colors of the American flag, what is in  $S_c$ ?*

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g. All the sets we've seen so far have something contained within it. What if a set does not contain any elements?

i. *What do we call a set without any elements?*

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ii. We will represent the \_\_\_\_\_ as  $\emptyset$ .

iii. {A set of pigs that can fly by themselves.} = \_\_\_\_\_

iv. Give your own description and example of the empty set.

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**Notation:**

$\in$  : The fact that the number 6 is an element of the set  $S_1$  is denoted as  $6 \in S_1$ . The fact the 7 is not an element of the set  $S_1$  is denoted as  $7 \notin S_1$ .

$\subseteq$  : For two sets  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , if every element of  $S_2$  is also an element of  $S_1$ , then  $S_2$  is a **subset** of  $S_1$ . In mathematical language, we write this as  $S_2 \subseteq S_1$ .

$\subset$  : A subset of a set is called **proper** if it is not empty and is not equal to the original set.

**Note:** The notations  $\subset$  and  $\subseteq$  for sets are analogous to  $<$  and  $\leq$  for numbers.

**Problem 2:** Some very special sets.

b. In the past, we've explored natural numbers. *What are natural numbers?*

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c. We can put all of the natural numbers into a set and give it a special symbol:  $\mathbb{N}$ .

i. *Is 0 a part of the set of natural numbers? If not, how do you write it in mathematical language?*

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ii. How would you formally read your answer for (i)?

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iii. Let's represent  $N$  in set notation:

$$N = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

d. We can also expand the set of natural numbers ( $N$ ) to contain negative integers as well as zero. We will represent this set with the capital letter  $Z$ .

i. Is 0 a part of the set of **integral numbers**, or just **integers**? How do you write it in mathematical language?

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ii. How would you formally read your answer for (i)?

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iii. Let's represent  $Z$  in set notation:

$$Z = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

e. We can further expand the set of **integers**. Let  $m \in Z$  and  $n \in N$ . The set  $Q$  of all the fractions  $m/n$  in the reduced form is called the set of  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

i. Is  $\frac{2}{3} \in Q$ ?  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

ii. What about  $\frac{4}{3}$ ?  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

iii. Is the number 0.55 rational? Why or why not?

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f. Can we find all of the elements of  $N$  in  $Z$ ? How can we use notation to compare these two sets?

$$N \underline{\hspace{1cm}} Z$$

- i. *Is N a subset of N?* \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. *Is Z a subset of Z?* \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. *Is N a proper subset of Z?* If so, let's change our comparison to reflect this:

$$N \text{ _____ } Z$$

- g. Can we find all of the elements of Z in Q? How can we use notation to compare the two sets? *Is Z a proper subset of Q?*

$$Z \text{ _____ } Q$$

**Problem 3:**

$$S_1 = \{C, A, T\} \quad S_2 = \{A, C, T\}$$

- a. *Is  $S_1$  a subset of  $S_2$ ? Is  $S_1$  a proper subset of  $S_2$ ?*

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- b. *Write down all the proper subsets of the set of colors of the US flag. Do they form a set? A list?*

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- c. Consider the set  $S_3 = \{ \text{cat, horse, lion, tiger, 0, 5, 100, dog} \}$ . Find the following subsets:

- i. Subset of numbers = \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Subset of animals = \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Subset of animals whose names contain the letter l = \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. Subset of common pets = \_\_\_\_\_

v. Subset of colors = \_\_\_\_\_

### Red Hot Chilli Pepper

*Move one digit to make the equality  $101 - 102 = 1$  correct*

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**Problem 4:** The number of elements in a set is called its *cardinality*. In math language, we can write the cardinality of a set A as either  $|A|$  or  $\text{card}(A)$ . We will use the former notation.

a. Let  $U$  be the set of states in the United States. What is  $|U|$ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What is  $|\{0\}|$ ? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. What is  $|\emptyset|$ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Next Time:** Sets are a very important and useful idea. We can use this idea to mathematically explain a certain diagram we have previously explored: Venn Diagrams.

### Challenge Questions

- a. Decide which of the following two fractions is greater without cross-multiplying or bringing to the common denominator.

$$\frac{2017}{2018} \text{ or } \frac{2018}{2019}$$

- b. Given the sets below, find which sets are subsets of another (Use the notation we have learned so far):
- i. A = set of all flowers
  - ii. B = set of all red objects
  - iii. C = set of all tulips
  - iv. D = set of all balloons
  - v. E = set of all things you can use for birthday decorations
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- c. Consider the following sets:

$$A = \{\text{cat, horse, lion, tiger, 0, 5, 100, dog}\}$$

$$B = \{1, 5, 100, \text{panda, mouse, seahorse, lion}\}$$

- i. Can you make a new set that contains elements that are found both in A and B?

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- ii. Can you make a new set that contains elements that are found in either A or B?

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d. How many subsets, including the empty set and the set proper, does a set  $A$  of the following cardinality have?

i. 2

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ii. 3

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iii. 4

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iv. 5

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v. Do you see a pattern?

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e. Given  $|A| = n$ , prove that the cardinality of the set of all the subsets of  $A$  is  $2^n$ .