

The Soroban

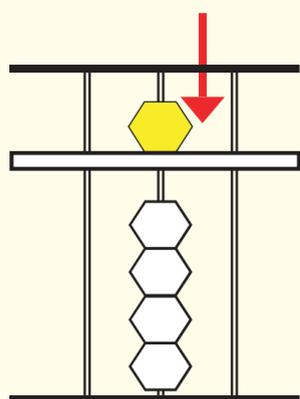
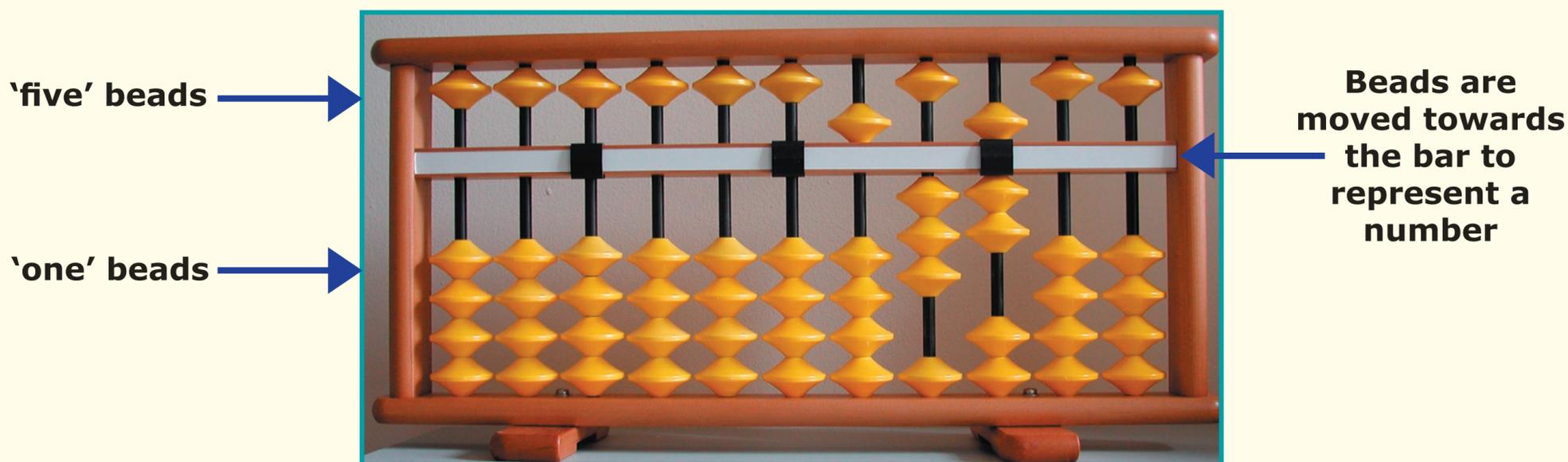


What Place in the Mathematics Classroom?

The *soroban* is used in Japan to support calculation. Skilled users can also use their knowledge of the *soroban* to carry out mental calculations very quickly and effectively.

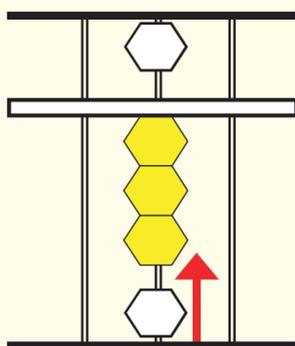
Can basic soroban lessons improve numeracy?

Pupils in their first year at two secondary schools took part in a research project run by the Edinburgh Centre for Mathematical Education. They had up to twelve lessons in basic *soroban* calculation.



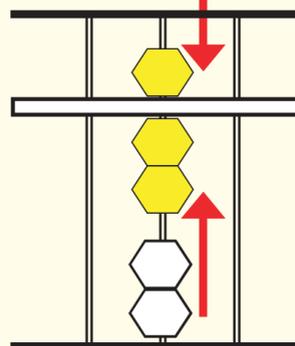
5

The index finger is used to move the 'five' beads



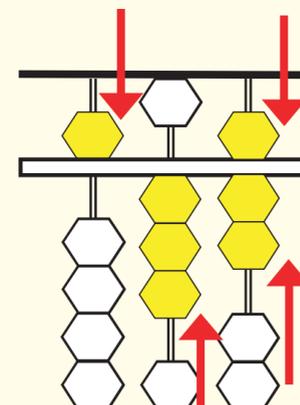
3

The thumb is used to push up the 'one' beads



7

Pinch with finger and thumb to show 7



5

3

7

Work left to right: 'finger, thumb, pinch' to show 537

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Edinburgh Centre for Mathematical Education
Classroom based research, working reflectively with teachers

www.education.ed.ac.uk/ecme

