Sumdog is an adaptive, mastery learning tool that helps students learn while having fun.

This guide covers the many ways you can use Sumdog to help prepare your students for standardized tests, including:

1. Standards-aligned practice that encourages a growth mindset
2. Multiple choice and multi-step questions
3. Standard-aligned skills focus
4. The testing environment and Sumdog assessments
5. Getting actionable insight
6. In depth data
7. Collaborating with other teachers
8. Parental involvement & homework

Sumdog should be used as an aid to teaching, not a substitute. We recommend using Sumdog as part of a differentiated approach for test preparation.

www.sumdog.com
Sumdog is distributed in the US by Sumdog Inc (902 Broadway, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10010, EIN 35-2503565), and is published internationally by Sumdog Ltd. (43 Queensferry Street Lane, Edinburgh, registration SC167331)
Standards-aligned practice that encourages a growth mindset

Sumdog is standards aligned, so anything your students are working on will be relevant to your teaching. Practice is fun and engaging rather than stressful.

Our adaptive learning engine understands each child to give them a personalized learning experience.

This boosts confidence and encourages incremental improvement by rewarding accuracy and skill mastery.

Earning coins gives them something to build on and aim for, engendering a sense of improvement.

Students can track their own successes and hard skills, and can watch Khan Academy tutorials to boost their learning on skills they are struggling with.

As a teacher you can identify areas where each student is struggling, and work with them to explore a new approach. We’ll discuss this in more detail later.

REINFORCING LEARNING

When a student struggles, Sumdog will reintroduce questions from pre-requisite skills they have already mastered. This reminds them of what they have already learned and prevents them from becoming discouraged, while also keeping up a challenge for them to overcome.

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Multiple choice and multi-step questions

All questions in Sumdog are presented as multiple choice, allowing students to practice and become comfortable with this format. As students progress, the questions increase in complexity and encourage an awareness of vocabulary to eliminate wrong answers and ignore red herrings.

Sumdog Math includes multi step questions encourage students to think critically - at higher levels students are asked to provide how they would answer the question, rather than the answer itself.

Find total volume of two right rectangular prisms given image (metric units)

One right rectangular prism has a volume of 36 mm$^3$. What is the combined volume of this plus the second shape shown?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36 + 40</td>
<td>36 mm$^3$ + 48 mm$^3$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 mm$^3$ + 60 mm$^3$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 mm$^3$ + 40 mm$^3$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They need to read the question carefully and understand what it wants to know, how words translate to functions, or the different ways to reach an answer.

Identify triangles

Type of triangle?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Triangle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An equilateral triangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An isosceles triangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An isosceles scalene triangle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sumdog encourages accuracy, rather than speed, by rewarding correct answers and reverting to pre-requisite skills if it is clear the student is struggling or guessing to progress quickly.

www.sumdog.com
Challenges and competitions are great ways to motivate your students to practice.

Challenges allow earn extra coins by completing a certain number of questions in a set time frame, while competitions encourages teamwork and friendly competition as they compete in teams or against other classes.

To set a challenge or competition, click the Activities button on your dashboard. You can choose to focus on specific skills by clicking ‘Set skills’ when setting up.

Since the skills are aligned to state standards, you can select skills that reflect your lesson plan or material for an upcoming test.

You can also set these as homework by setting the time frame for outside school hours. This gives students an extra chance to practice, especially if you don’t have 1:1 in your classroom.
The testing environment and Sumdog assessments

Sumdog assessments allow you to recreate a testing environment, where students answer questions outside of the game-based activities. Set assessments for Math, Spelling or Reading.

To set an assessment, click the ‘Assessments’ button on your dashboard.

Choose the skills that will be covered in the upcoming test, and set the number of questions and the time to replicate this as well. Students can practice answering against the clock and get a feel for the pace they need to work at.

Students can review the questions before submitting their final answers.

You can see their results straight away, and quickly identify where students may be struggling so that you can target your interventions.

Use assessments as formative and summative tests by repeating the same assessment after additional teaching, to assess how much progress has been made.

WORK ON PAPER

If it’s not possible for all your students to access a device, you can print off the questions as a paper test.

www.sumdog.com
Get actionable insight

Even if you don’t have a subscription, you have access to some basic reporting on your students, that you can use to target your teaching and give students extra support where needed.

Focus Skills

Sumdog will assess each student’s level, and give them a skill to focus on. To see a student’s focus skill, click on their name on your dashboard.

Fact Fluency Reports

Click on the Fact Families Report to see the student’s fact fluency across addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and identify gaps in their fluency that you can address.

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As well as the results of your assessments, a Sumdog subscription offers a number of reports to help you identify which students may need additional support and with which skills. Click the Reports button on your dashboard to get these useful reports:

**Summary**
This will show you which skill each student is focusing on, include the standards code for this skill.

**Accuracy**
Choose accuracy to identify students that are struggling to get correct answers. Select view as ‘Table report’ to see each student’s accuracy against each skill.

**Skill status**
Quickly see which students have completed which skills by selecting this report as a Table report.

GROUP YOUR STUDENTS
*With these reports you can see the standards code next to each skill. Click on a skill and the report will group together students by those who have and haven’t mastered the skill, so you can quickly identify a set of students to work with in your rotations.*
Collaborate with other teachers

Share assessments

You can share assessments with other teachers in your school, allowing you to save time on set up, and compare performance across classes.

Click ‘Repeat’ to set an assessment for another class, or click ‘Show all’ to see all the assessments created by teachers in your school.

FRIENDLY COMPETITION

You can also set up competitions to cover multiple classes, and have your students compete together as a class, against other classes in the school.

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Parental involvement & homework

Homework
Sumdog works on any device with an internet connection, so you can set test practice in Sumdog as homework.

This gives your students more chances to practice, particularly if you don’t have 1:1 in your classroom.

You can set assessments, challenges and competitions as homework, just set the time frame for outside of school hours. You can even set the dates to give your students some extra practice over the Spring Break.

If your students won’t be able to access Sumdog at home, you could set up a lunchtime or after school club to give them more opportunities.

Parents
We encourage parents to take an active involvement in their child’s learning by offering free parent accounts. They can use these to track their activity and receive weekly updates. Parents can sign up at sumdog.com.

With a paid family subscription, parents can also set their own challenges and assessments for their children.