Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the Practice?
There is extensive practice throughout the unit.

- Ten Minute Math /Classroom Routines are daily opportunities for computational fluency and practice of skills and math reasoning.
- Student Activity book
  - There are 4 types of pages:
    - Homework
    - Daily Practice
    - Game page
    - Pages without an icon that go specifically with the daily session or lesson.
- Student Math Handbook
  - Math Words and Ideas Pages (green top)
    - With *Math Words and Ideas* pages, you have a concise and visual summary of mathematics to… pre-teach or review for students who struggle or catch up on content for absent students to review, to use as a springboard for extension for your bright lights, or to use at home for parents and students.
  - Games Pages (orange top)
    - All of the games of Investigations are in the back of the Student Math Handbook! You have a variety of Math Games, with variations and levels of play to differentiate.
- Exam View
  - additional practice
  - Practice test
  - resembles state test

What kind of technology is there?

- SuccessTracker: an online assessment system that provides online grade level & unit tests. It scores, documents, and suggests remediation.
  - With Success Tracker, students experience the rigor and time constraints of a standardized test, & experience the format of a state test or standardized test, and teachers get to make data-driven decisions.
  - Investigations offers embedded, authentic, and online assessment opportunities
- Digital content at pearsonsuccesstnet.com
  - For teachers, there is an online lesson planner, resource masters, and extra online activities.
  - For students, there is the online Student Math Handbook and software, Shapes for Grades K–2, LogoPaths for Grades 3–5, and eTools for grade K-5
- Offline (on CD)
  - ExamView, a test and practice generator
  - Resource Masters
  - Student software, Shapes and LogoPaths
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Where is assessment found and what does it “look like”? There are multiple assessment opportunities for teachers to best fit their needs.

Informal Assessment - There is on-going assessment throughout the unit
- *Observing Students at Work* - provides a critical lens for teachers to observe their students it includes bulleted -bold faced questions at point of use
  - Highlighted in red
  - Explicit
  - There are assessment checklist for some of these observations
- *Writing Opportunities* – provide suggestions for teachers to save student work for assessment.
  - Provides writing practice that helps students prepare for the writing students must do on many state tests
- *Portfolio* - Coaches teachers to save student work for portfolios.
- *Games* – provide authentic practice and opportunities for assessment
- *Math Workshop* – station activities including games and activities to observe and collect data
- *Classroom Routines (K-3) / Ten Minute Math (3-5)* – daily practice and great for understanding student thinking
- *Discussions* – sessions include discussion with critical questions teachers ask the classroom to understand if student are beginning to internalize information.

Formal Assessment
- Benchmarks- targeted skills that are meant to be mastered.
- End of the unit assessment – provide multi-step problems assessing benchmarks with student examples for determining whether a student has met, partially met, or not met each benchmark
- *Exam View*
- *Successstracker*

How does the curriculum foster home-school connection?
We build strong home school connections
- *Family Letters* - At least 2 per unit – the first one show parents what benchmarks are assessed in the unit and gives examples so parents can see what the benchmarked concept “looks” like
  - Family Letters give parents a clear, easy to understand picture of what is happening in the classroom
- *Student Handbook*- (print/electronic- web-based)- shows the math of Investigations, with modeling and pictorial representation
- *Student Activity Book*- math note
  - ANY page that has the possibility of going home has a note to parents explaining the “big idea” of the page and referencing the Student Math Handbook.
- *Games* (can be played at home)
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Is there Differentiated Instruction?
Absolutely – Students learn at their instructional level
- Daily differentiation (Intervention, Extension, ELL) with embedded activities to reach all learners
- Implementing Investigations Guide - Case Studies - set of scenarios written by teachers that focus on meeting the needs of the range of learners in the classrooms.
  - Gives teachers the background information they need, when they need it to facilitate discussion and authentically assess students.
  - Divided into parts to provide ease of use for teachers
    - **Part 1: Collaborating with the authors** – Guiding Principals behind Investigations and how Investigations supports the Teacher’s role
    - **Part 2: Using Investigations** – This is a great place for teachers to start when beginning to implement Investigations
    - **Part 3: Mathematics in your grade** – this section summarizes the “math” behind Investigations. This information is also found in the appropriate Curriculum Unit front matter
    - **Part 4: Classroom Routines** - This section summarizes each of the routines or 10 minutes math found in that grade
    - **Part 5: Technology in Investigations** – This section gives rationale behind the use of technology in the Investigations curriculum. This section also has instructions for Shapes or Logo Paths software
    - **Part 6: Professional Development** – This section contains a set of Teacher Notes that address topics and issues applicable to the curriculum as a whole. Each unit contains a set of Teacher Notes that offer information about the mathematical content of that unit and how students learn it.
    - **Part 7: Working with a Range of Learners** – this section contains Case Studies written by the Authors and Field Test teachers.
    - **Part 8: Scope and Sequence / NCTM Curriculum Focal Points and Connections**
    - **Part 9: Math Terms and Index** – this section provides a comprehensive index for that grade-level. Each Curriculum Unit book has an unit index in the back of the book also
- ExamView – create different tests for different students
- Games – game directions include variations to accommodate range of learners
- SuccessTracker- prescribes remediation

What kind of Embedded Professional Development does the program have?
One of the main goals of the authorship team is to improve teacher content knowledge.

- **Implementing Investigations**
  - Includes Case Studies for grade level meetings
- **The Curriculum Unit**
  - Where to Start - Self directed Professional Development tool for each Curriculum Unit
  - Mathematics in the unit- shares the math foundations from previous grade (looking back)
  - Mathematical Emphasis - Further defined in focus point
  - Algebra in this Unit – describes algebra connections so teachers understand algebra in unit
  - Point of use Professional Development
    - Teacher Note
    - Professional Development
    - Math Note Tab
    - Differentiation
    - Algebra Note
    - Technology Note
  - Unit Teacher Notes at end of unit
  - Unit Dialogue Box at end of unit