

EAT YOUR MATH HOMEWORK: BONUS RECIPE

Chocolate Pretzel Counting Rods

Make your own Chocolate Pretzel Counting Rods with a recipe that's as easy as 1-2-3.

Imagine a day with NO numbers! Sure, math class might be cancelled, but how could you take the school bus five miles to your house, or eat a double cheeseburger? Nope, any way you figure it, people everywhere count on numbers... But wait, did you know that not everybody uses the same system of numbers? In China, counting rods (sticks) were invented more than 2,500 years ago. Even today, some people use these rods instead of digits!

What you need:

24 thick pretzel sticks
 Cooking spray
 2 squares semi-sweet baker's chocolate
 Chocolate sprinkles
 2 squares white baker's chocolate
 Rainbow sprinkles

2 small, microwave-safe bowls
 Cookie sheet or large cutting board
 lined with wax paper

Prep time: 10 minutes
 Yield: 12 positive rods
 and 12 negative rods
 Difficulty: easy



What you do:

- Spray each microwave-safe bowl with cooking spray. Put two squares of semi-sweet chocolate in one bowl and melt in the microwave according to package directions.
- Dip twelve pretzels, one at a time, in the melted chocolate so that about an inch of the rod is covered. Roll in a plate full of chocolate sprinkles.
- Lay each dipped pretzel on the wax paper. These chocolate pretzels are the positive numbers.
- Repeat steps 1 to 3 for the white chocolate, using rainbow sprinkles instead of chocolate ones. The white chocolate pretzels are the negative numbers.
- Place the sheet of pretzel rods in the refrigerator for 20 minutes.

Here is the code to figure out the value of each counting rod arrangement:

—	=	≡	≡	≡	⊥	⊥	⊥	⊥
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					⊥	⊥	⊥	⊥
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Math Appetizer

The rods that are vertical are called tsungs (ZONG). The rods that are horizontal are called henges (HENG). To get the hang of these henges and tsungs, figure out what number this diagram represents.

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Units
≡		=	

* Note how the units and hundreds are placed vertically and the tens and thousands are placed horizontally. Why do you think they are positioned this way?