Challenge: 12.12.12

Maths worksheets from mathsblog.co.uk (thanks to urbrainy.com)



Challenge: Calculating with 12 12 12

On December 12th 2012 the date is: 12.12.12.
This made me think of a great number challenge!



Using each of the three twelves and a combination of the signs what number sentences can you come up with?

I have done an easy one to get you started!





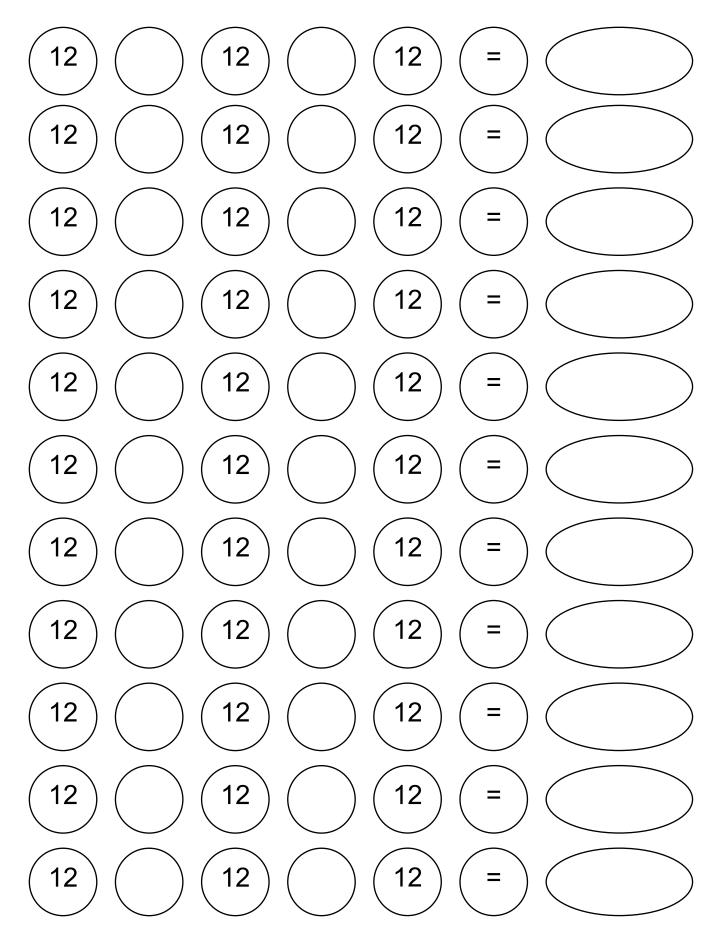


Some of these could prove tricky, including decimals, negative numbers or even calculations which are impossible to work out!

You might also want to use brackets to change the order (BODMAS).

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Suggested Answers

Look for a methodical, well ordered approach.

Some possible answers (brackets can change the order):

$$12 + 12 - 12 = 12$$

 $12 + 12 \times 12 = 156$ or 288 (This is where it gets interesting and can bring about a good deal of debate!)

$$12 + 12 \div 12 = 13 \text{ or } 2$$

$$12 - 12 + 12 = 12$$

$$12 - 12 - 12 = -12$$

$$12 - 12 \times 12 = -132 \text{ or } 0$$

$$12 - 12 \div 12 = 11 \text{ or } 0$$

etc etc.

Other issues should arise during the course of this investigation including dividing a positive number by zero.