



# Family Letter for Unit 3

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about and practicing multiplication of whole numbers.

You can expect to see work that provides practice with multiplying numbers by one-digit factors as well as by two-digit factors.

As we learn how to multiply whole numbers and use estimation to check the exact answer, you may wish to use this sample as a guide.

## Vocabulary

**Associative Property** The property which states that the way in which factors are grouped does not change the product.

**Distributive Property** The property which states that when two addends are multiplied by a factor, the product is the same as when each addend is multiplied by the factor and those products are added.

**factor** The numbers used in a multiplication problem.

**product** The answer in a multiplication problem.

### Estimating to Check Multiplication

You can estimate to tell if an exact answer is reasonable.

Follow these steps to multiply  $189 \times 21$  and use estimation to tell if the answer is reasonable.

First, estimate by rounding each factor to the greatest place.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 189 & \xrightarrow{\text{rounds to}} & 200 \\
 \times 21 & \xrightarrow{\text{rounds to}} & \times 20 \\
 \hline
 & & 4,000
 \end{array}$$

Then, multiply to find the exact answer.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \phantom{0}11 \\
 189 \\
 \times 21 \\
 \hline
 189 \\
 + 3780 \\
 \hline
 3,969
 \end{array}$$

Lastly, compare the exact answer to the estimate.

3,969 is close to 4,000

Since 3,969 is close to 4,000, the answer is reasonable.

During this unit, students should practice and memorize basic multiplication and division facts.

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher



### Technology

Check out *Education Place* at [eduplace.com/kids/mw/](http://eduplace.com/kids/mw/) for e•Glossary, e•Word Games, test prep practice, and more.