

# COUNTDOWN TO ZERO CALCULATOR GAME

*Countdown to Zero is a very quick to play strategy game which helps children become familiar with how to count down in small decimal steps. The rules can be altered to fit any counting sequence. It is also a great game for developing strategic thinking and discussing tips for how to win the game once players have played it a few times.*

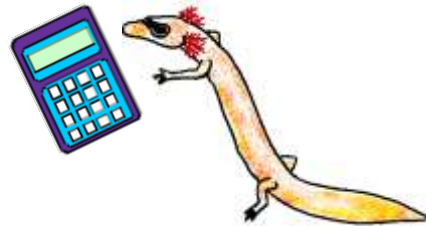
**Age Range:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade+

**Number of players:** 2

**Learning:** Subtracting in decimals with one decimal place from 3, strategy game

## You will need

- a calculator



## Instructions

- Take turns to start each game.
- The calculator starts with the number 3.
- Each turn a player can choose to subtract either 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 or 0.5
- The winner is the player who makes zero on the calculator.

## Example

The calculator is set to number 3.

Player 1 chooses to subtract 0.3. The new total is 2.7.

Player 2 chooses to subtract 0.5. The new total is 2.2.

Player 1 chooses to subtract 0.4. The new total is 1.8.

Player 2 subtracts 0.3. The new total is 1.5.

Player 1 subtracts 0.5. The new total is 1.

Player 2 subtracts 0.4. The new total is 0.6.

Player 1 subtracts 0.2. The new total is 0.4.

Player 2 subtracts 0.4. The new total is 0. Player 2 is the winner.

## Variations

- The loser is the player who makes zero using the calculator.
- Change the total and the amount you subtract – experiment! E.g. Change the total to 10 and subtract any multiple of 0.1 up to 0.9.

*This game is a very strategic game, and it is possible never to lose if you go first.*