

# Rounding Big Numbers

4th Grade

Rounding to any place, and why estimating first catches wrong answers.

*The rule never changes — only which digit you underline.*

1

## UNDERLINE THE ROUNDING PLACE

To the nearest thousand? Underline the thousands digit.

2

## LOOK AT THE DIGIT TO ITS RIGHT

That one digit decides. Everything further right is irrelevant.

3

## 5 OR MORE ROUNDS UP

4 or less leaves the underlined digit alone.

4

## ZERO EVERYTHING TO THE RIGHT

The rounded place keeps its value; the rest becomes zeros.

### WORKED

4,682 to nearest thousand → 5,000 (6 rounds up)

4,682 to nearest hundred → 4,700 (8 rounds up)

4,682 to nearest ten → 4,680 (2 rounds down)

Estimate  $4,682 + 3,219$  as  $5,000 + 3,000 = 8,000$ . If your answer is 800 or 80,000, check again.