

This activity takes place outside. Pirates work in 3-person teams to help each other walk the plank. (Unlike on a real pirate ship, the goal is to start at the end of the plank and make it back to the safety of the ship.) Use **sidewalk chalk** to draw one “plank” divided into 6 numbered sections (see illustration to the right) for each team. Have each team bring one **journal** and pencil outside with them.

Pass out a pair of **dice** to each team. Have each team choose a “walker” a “rattler” and a “recorder.” To begin, the rattler rolls the dice. Then the walker says the sum of the two numbers out loud. If the sum is correct, the walker moves to space 1 on the plank. If not correct, the walker’s teammates help to find the correct sum. Then the walker moves to space 1. Meanwhile, the recorder writes down the two numbers as well as their correct sum in the journal.

Next the rattler rolls one die. The walker adds the number on the die to the current sum and says the new sum out loud. If the sum is correct, the walker moves to space 2. If not, the walker’s teammates help to find the correct sum, and then the walker moves to space 2. The recorder writes down the number on the die and the new sum in the journal.

The teams repeat the previous sequence until the walker has reached the beginning of the plank. Then have the teams switch roles.

VARIATION 1: After the teams have had time to practice the plank walk a few times, challenge them to complete the walk before time runs out on a **sand glass**. If they are able to do that, add more sections to each plank.

VARIATION 2: Have students complete subtraction plank walks. Have the walker start with the number 50 and then subtract the number on each rolled die until the beginning of the plank is reached.

MATERIALS:

- Sidewalk Chalk
- Dice
- Sand glass