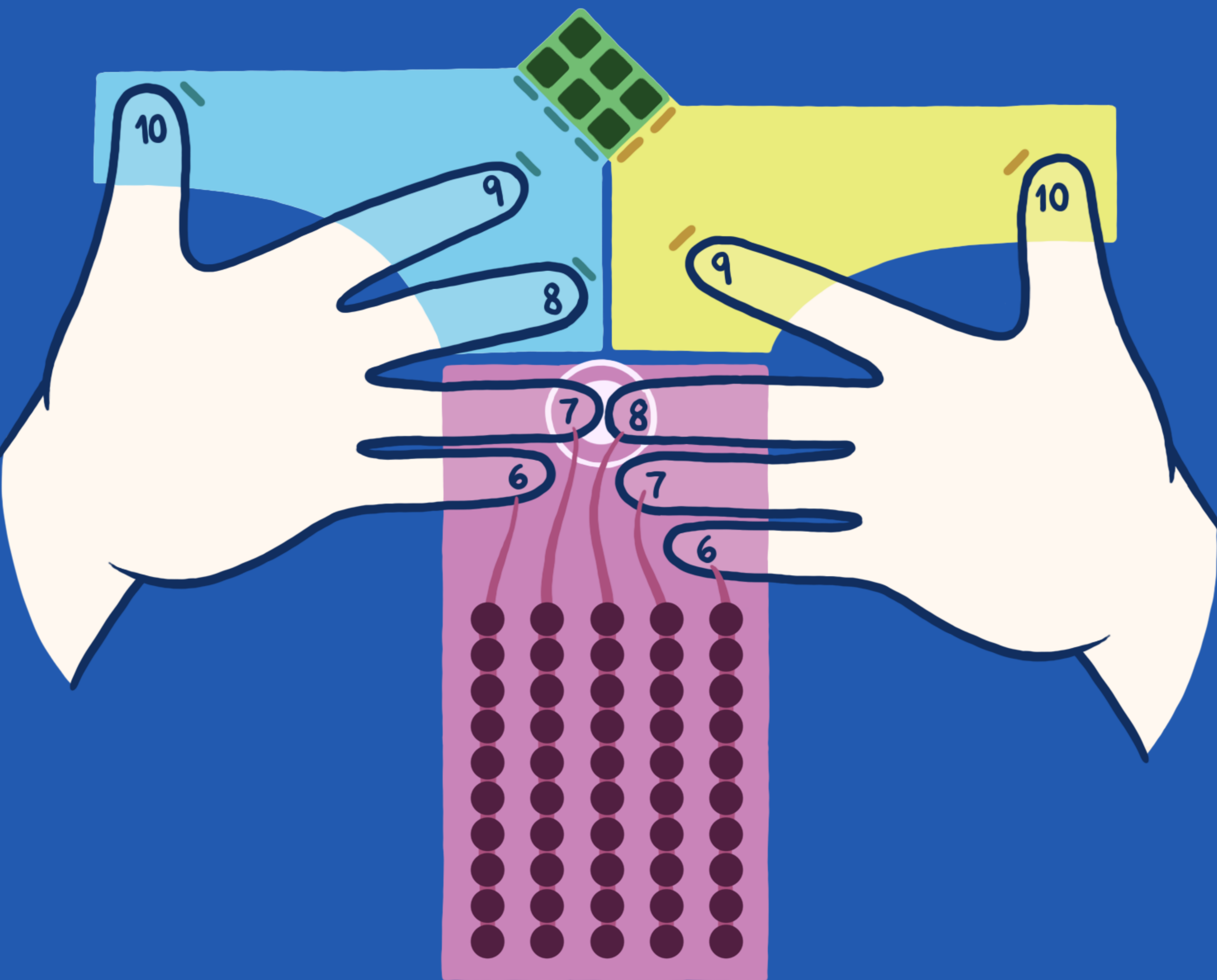


try the ancient merchants' trick

from **MULTIPLICATION EXPLORERS** book



$$7 \times 8 = 50 + 6 = 56$$

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◆ Let your fingers tingle with algebra! ●

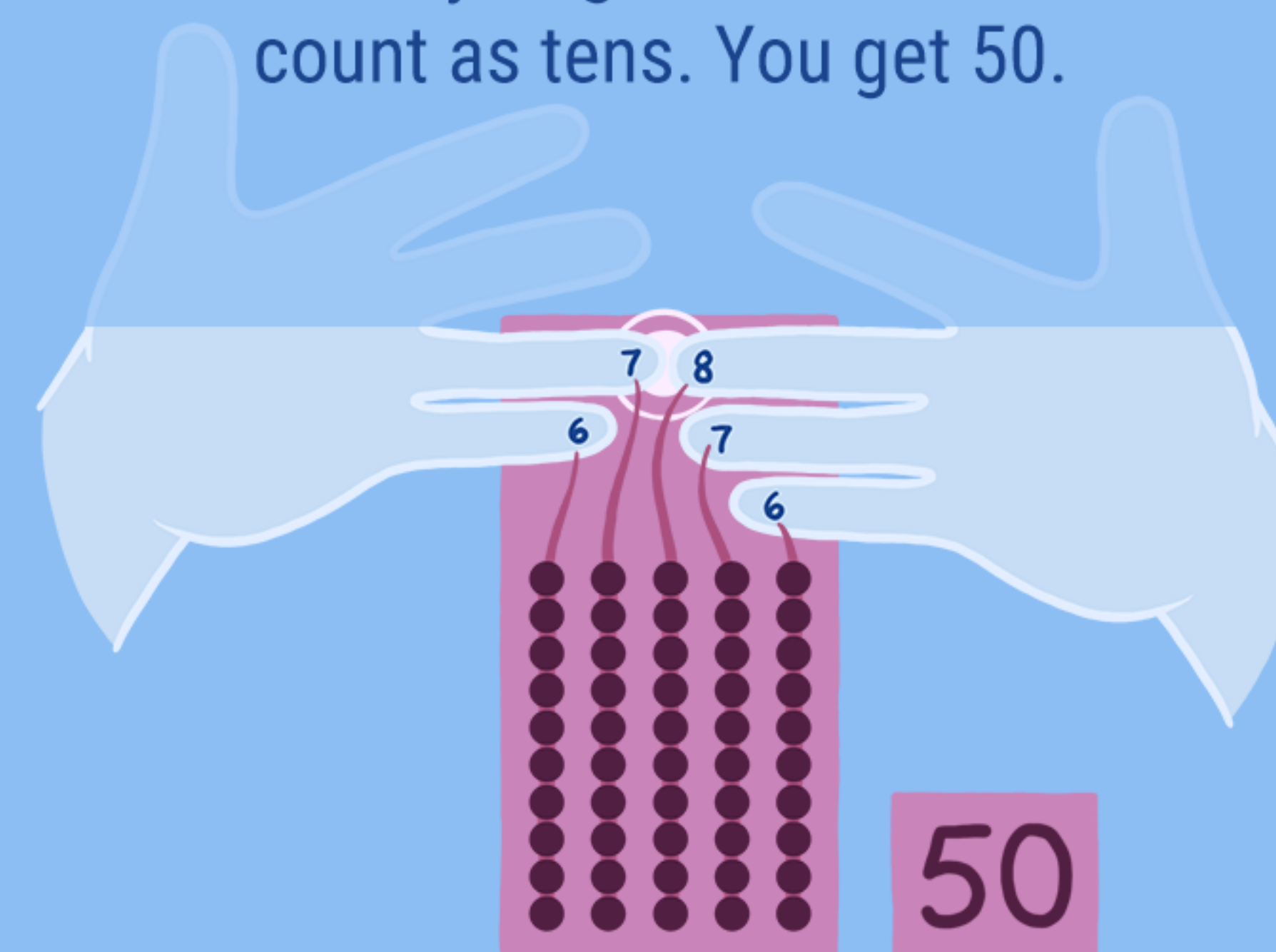


Put your hands in front of you, thumbs up and palms facing you. Starting from your pinkies, number your fingers 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Wiggle your ring finger (7) and the middle finger (8) on your other hand. Bring them together.

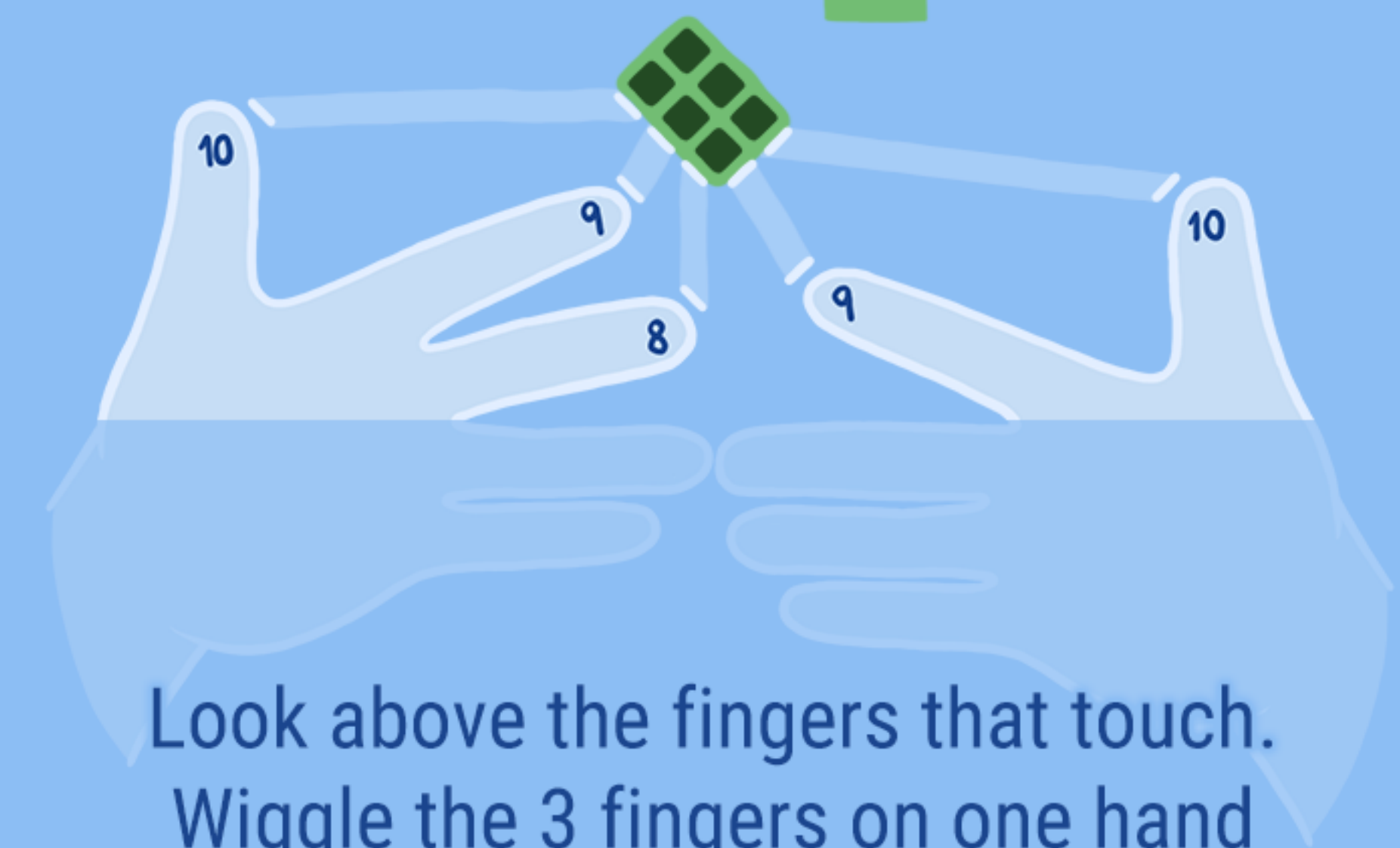


The fingers that touch and any fingers under them count as tens. You get 50.



$$3 \times 2 = 6$$

Look above the fingers that touch. Wiggle the 3 fingers on one hand and the 2 fingers on the other. Multiply 3 x 2 to get 6.



Add the top and bottom results. You get 56 as the total: the answer to 7x8. Amazing!

$$7 \times 8 = 50 + 6 = 56$$

Now, pick another fact to try!

explore why the trick works | find more early algebra and calculus adventures

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