

Grades Pre-K to 3

39 programs / 3 to 5 minutes

Year of Production: 2003-07

This charming series presents math in a meaningful way, as children watch the endearing hamster star Tumbleweed trying to achieve tasks in his miniature world. Through trial and error and, “math to the rescue,” Tumbleweed eventually succeeds at his various challenges. These include: calculating the quantity of seeds needed for his seven-day trip; coaching his soccer team to sudden victory; counting the plants he has growing in his back garden; and finding the best way to organize his seeds into two closets.

Amusing storylines and dialogue, inventive sets, and humorous characters engage young children in learning about math. As Tumbleweed ponders each quandary to find the right solution, children also gain valuable lessons about problem solving and persistence. Young audiences see that mistakes are natural and “human” — and that math can be a helpful tool to find answers.

Resource Materials: Educational games and activities are available at tvokids.com. A teacher’s guide contains learning objectives, program descriptions, background information, pre- and post-viewing activities for each program, and a bibliography is available for programs 1 to 29.

Programs

The Not-So-Fantastic Voyage
BPN 887901

Using estimation, Tumbleweed calculates how many seeds he needs for seven days. (2:41)

Play Rodent Ball!!!

BPN 887902

In order for his soccer team to win the game, Tumbleweed realizes that he has to discern the opposing team’s play pattern. (3:37)

Wagons, Boats and Automobiles

BPN 887903

Tumbleweed learns about fractions as he tries to bring home his seed purchase. (3:05)

A Room With A Choo!

BPN 887904

Tumbleweed uses his skills of division to calculate the required number of trips to move the bricks needed to build an addition to his castle. (3:00)

Birthday Crate

BPN 887905

Tumbleweed uses a handy map to locate the right crate with the birthday supplies. (2:56)

Green Thumb Conundrum

BPN 887906

Tumbleweed tries various color arrangements for his flowers. Using his math and creativity, he arrives at a pleasing solution that works. (3:07)

Silo Road

BPN 887907

Tumbleweed tries to find a silo big enough to store all his seeds and, in the process, learns about volume and capacity. (2:53)

Mix Master

BPN 887908

Seeking more variety in his morning cereal, Tumbleweed searches through every cereal in the store, and studies each package’s ingredients and proportions. (2:26)

De’Fence

BPN 887909

Using his ingenuity and mathematical skills, Tumbleweed calculates the number of fence pieces he needs to purchase in order to build a fence around his castle. (3:00)

Traffic Co-Op

BPN 887911

Tumbletown’s traffic is terrible! What’s more, it’s Tumbleweed’s job to fix it! He takes to the streets to find out what the people think, and makes a chart to keep track of the votes. (4:00)

Field of Seeds

BPN 887912

Tumbleweed sets out to count the plants he has growing in his back garden. Finding it too difficult to count by single numbers, Tumbleweed starts counting by the number of plants across each row. (3:30)

The Even Littler Hobo

BPN 887913

Setting off to go to his best friend Burfy’s party, Tumbleweed encounters a rabbit who gives him directions in paces. However, as Tumbleweed realizes much, much later on, rabbit paces are longer than hamster paces; he’s taken the wrong road! (3:52)

Trading Cages

BPN 887914

Tumbleweed and his best friend, Burfy, are on the show Trading Cages, where they get to redecorate each other's living spaces. Tumbleweed agonizes over what choices Burfy is more "likely" to appreciate. (3:50)

A Seed by Any Other Weight

BPN 887915

Tumbleweed learns that he has won his weight in seeds (or seed-related products). At the television studio, Tumbleweed tries many different choices, trying to end up with the largest pile he can. (3:46)

Keeping Up with Zeus

BPN 887916

Tumbleweed and his arch-nemesis, Zeus, compete to have the best "front-of-castle" decoration. Tumbleweed has a little trouble when he tries to erect a statue: he didn't ask for the right shapes and, as a result, gets stuck with all 2D objects. (3:57)

Chomp-etition

BPN 887917

When Tumbleweed learns that his arch-nemesis, Zeus, has beaten his record for seed-eating by eight seeds, Tumbleweed boldly sets out to beat that record by another eight seeds. When the dust settles, it's a matter of some pretty complicated subtraction...or is it? (3:50)

Tumbleweed: Domestic Animal

BPN 887918

Tumbleweed tries to figure out how to get the most seed cookie shapes out of his rolled dough using turns, flips, and slides of the cut-out shape. (3:25)

Current Sea-Worthy

BPN 887919

Tumbleweed has trouble taking 25 pennies to the store in order to buy some seeds. Fortunately, the Barge Driver helps him out by explaining that one quarter will work just as well...and won't sink Tumbleweed's boat. (3:38)

Pile Driver

BPN 887920

Tumbleweed tries to organize his seeds into two closets. Unfortunately, every time he picks a way of organizing, he either gets three piles or some seeds that could go in both piles. He needs to find a good category which will split the seeds so that they are appropriate for one pile only (3:32)

Fiesta La Vista, Baby

BPN 887921

When the clock changes from analog to digital, Tumbleweed has to figure out when to yell "Fiesta" to start the town's daily, one-minute party. (3:35)

To Sail the Seven Seeds

BPN 887922

The crazy ferryman's fun-time party cruise and all you can eat seed buffet leaves at 4:00 pm, but Tumbleweed has problems getting there on time. (3:35)

Drawn and Quartet

BPN 887923

Tumbleweed's singing group, The Furballs, wins first place on the TVO show "Singing for Pie." But how to divvy up their prize? (3:35)

Shopping's Fee

BPN 887924

Tumbleweed has a dollar. He goes on a crazy shopping spree, stopping occasionally to figure out how much he has before plunging back in to the retail frenzy. (3:35)

Short Order Cook

BPN 887925

At the 10 Seed Diner you can order ten seeds for one dime. However, Tumbleweed starts having trouble taking orders once the customers realize that you don't have to order just one kind of seed. (3:35)

Tropical Pair of Mice

BPN 887926

On "Castaway Survivor Trapped on a Desert Island Crusoe Factor" the contestants (Tumbleweed and Burfy) are trapped on a desert island for 100 days. They not only have to figure out how to survive, but also how to count to 100. (3:35)

Rodent Idol

BPN 887927

Tumbleweed makes it all the way to the final two on the TV show "Rodent Idol." The good news — the audience votes for their favorite. The bad news — he's up against his arch-nemesis, Zeus. (3:35)

Seed-tiques Road Show

BPN 887928

The Seed-tiques Road Show is coming to Tumbletown, and Tumbleweed has twenty of his most rare and precious seeds to show them. (3:35)

Seed Points

BPN 887929

The Seed Miles Rewards program allows you to redeem seed miles for fabulous prizes. Tumbleweed calculates how many seed miles he has at various stages of a huge spending spree in order to redeem them for a snowboard. (3:35)

Purple Reigns

BPN 887930

The Seed Miles Rewards program allows you to redeem seed miles for fabulous prizes. Tumbleweed calculates how many seed miles he has at various stages of a huge spending spree in order to redeem them for a snowboard. (3:35)

Secret Rodent Club

BPN 887931

Tumbleweed wants to build a clubhouse but is confused about the amount of bricks to be used. The plans call for 312 but he reads it as 213 and then 123. (4:15)

Garage Sale

BPN 887932

Tumbleweed has a garage sale and runs into a problem when a customer gives him fifty cents for something that cost twenty-seven cents. He makes change by counting up from 27 to 50. (4:15)

Flyers

BPN 887933

Tumbleweed gets a job delivering flyers. In order to work faster he delivers by 5s and then 10s and then 100s. (4:15)

Seeds 4 Life

BPN 887934

Tumbleweed orders one bag of seeds per day to his house, then decides he wants two bags per day. He ends up with far more seeds than he is able to eat and his house is overflowing. (4:15)

Pool Haul

BPN 887935

Tumbleweed buys a swimming pool and has to set it up. He outlines the shape of a triangle, then a square and then an oval with the same length of rope. The oval shape is the largest area that can be covered with the same perimeter. (4:15)

Octagon Tables

BPN 887936

Tumbleweed orders new tables for the diner where he works. The tables that arrive are octagons, but they are not shaped like stop signs. Instead they are eight sides of all different lengths. (4:15)

Tangrams

BPN 887937

Tumbleweed buys his friend a tangram and learns that these shapes are made up of five triangles, a small square and a parallelogram. (4:15)

Super See-Saw 6000

BPN 887938

Tumbleweed buys a seesaw and learns that in order to enjoy it, he must play with a friend that is of equal or similar mass. (4:15)

Matter of Degrees

BPN 887939

Tumbleweed goes skiing thinking that 25 degrees is cold and learns that it's actually hot. He goes to the beach when the temperature is 0 degrees and learns that it is freezing. When it's 20 degrees he learns that it's perfect picnic weather. (4:15)

Best Team in Tumbletown

BPN 887940

Tumbleweed's basketball team is called The Squares. They play against The Triangles and The Trapezoids. This episode is musical. (4:15)