Blueberries

Annotation

Toetu recognizes the opportunity to apply a learned rounding and compensation strategy to correctly solve this multi-digit multiplication problem. He is able to explain his solution indicating his understanding of a recently learned procedure.

Problem: Blueberries

The teacher shows this problem to the student and reads it with him as required:

There are 97 blueberries in each punnet. How many blueberries are there altogether in six punnets?

Student response

Toetu:	There's 582 blueberries altogether.
Teacher:	Tell me how you did that.
Toetu:	Well, we've been learning to use tidy numbers to help us with problems like this. I saw the 97 and thought if there were 100 blueberries in each punnet then the answer would be 600, which is 6 x 100. But there are just 97 blueberries not 100, so I've done 3 too many. I have to take those ones off. Then I thought no, there are six punnets, so it's actually 6 lots of 3 I have to take off, and that's 18. So I get to do get the minus bit. That's 600 minus 18. I took off the 10 first, then the 8 and so its 582.