

DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM— CALL NUMBERS



The Dewey Decimal System is a method of putting books in order on the library shelves. Melvil Dewey created this system for nonfiction books. There are ten divisions. Each division is divided again and once again. Each division holds books about the same subject. Let's look at the system.

000-099	General Works —dictionaries and encyclopedias
100-199	Philosophy —ideas of mankind
200-299	Religion
300-399	Social Sciences —laws, government, fairy tales, folk tales
400-499	Languages
500-599	Sciences —rocks, animals, insects
600-699	Useful Arts —(how things work) cooking, pet care, how roads are made
700-799	Arts —painting, photography, arts and crafts, sports, music, drawing
800-899	Literature —poems, plays, short stories
900-999	Geography and History —history, travel, biography, atlases
000-099	General Works —This division is really a reference division. You will find dictionaries and encyclopedias in this section.
100-199	Philosophy —This division contains the basic ideas that mankind has written. Do not be concerned with this division. You most likely will not be using it.
200-299	Religion —This division holds all the ideas of the religions of the world.
300-399	Social Sciences —This division holds books about the laws, governments, or literature of countries. If you need a book about how laws are made, see the 300s. If you need to know how the government works, see 300s. If you need to know about the customs of a country, see 300s. And if you are interested in folk tales (stories of a certain country) see the 300s.
400-499	Languages —This division holds books about foreign languages. If you want to learn French, Spanish, or any other language, see the 400s.
500-599	Sciences —If you need a book about insects, or rocks, or animals, or anything that falls into the science area, see the 500s.
600-699	Useful Arts —If you need to know how something works, see the 600s. Hobbies, such as cooking or pet care, are in this division.
700-799	Arts —Anything in the arts belongs in the 700s. Sports, music, any arts and crafts, painting, and drawing are in here.
800-899	Literature —Stories, plays, and poems are in here.
900-999	Geography and History —Books about history, travel, and geography (atlases) are in here.

It is not necessary to memorize or learn each division of the Dewey Decimal System. If you want to use the library more effectively be aware of the ten divisions and how they work. Most libraries will have a chart of the Dewey Decimal System. You can check the chart.

NAME _____

DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM

000-099	General Reference	Dictionaries, encyclopedias
100-199	Philosophy	Ideas of mankind
200-299	Religion	
300-399	Social Science	Government, how laws are made, fairy tales of all parts of the world
400-499	Languages	
500-599	Science	Animals, planets, space, rocks
600-699	Useful Arts	Cooking, pet care, transportation
700-799	Fine Arts	Art, music, sports, crafts
800-899	Literature	Plays, short stories, poems, novels
900-999	Geography and History	Atlases, travel, biography, history

Read the following book titles. Under what Dewey category would you find them? Under what Dewey number would you find them?

1. _____ *The Care of Mice*
2. _____ *Pet Care: Guinea Pigs*
3. _____ *Football: What are the Rules?*
4. _____ *How to Learn Spanish*
5. _____ *The Way Our Laws are Made*
6. _____ *Rocks and Minerals*
7. _____ *Let's Learn About Spiders*
8. _____ *Baseball*
9. _____ *How to Make Puppets*
10. _____ *Seashells*
11. _____ *How an Indian Makes His Home*
12. _____ *Poems of the Indians*
13. _____ *New Jersey: Its History*
14. _____ *Coral: Fun Facts*
15. _____ *What Makes Leaves Green?*
16. _____ *All About Venus*
17. _____ *Learning to Play the Flute*
18. _____ *The Atlas of the World*
19. _____ *The Children's Dictionary*



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Read the following book titles, subjects, or situations. Can you decide what Dewey number and subject will help you?

1. _____ A biography of Paul Revere
2. _____ A book of maps
3. _____ How to make jewelry
4. _____ "The Little Tree" (a poem)
5. _____ How to play chess
6. _____ The building of roads in the U.S.A.
7. _____ The fairy tale of *Jack and the Beanstalk*
8. _____ How a law is made in the U.S.A.
9. _____ Visiting Maine
10. _____ Cooking for beginners
11. _____ Learning about starfish
12. _____ How to make paper crafts for the holidays
13. _____ Learning how bridges are made
14. _____ Drawing horses
15. _____ A French dictionary



DEWEY CALL NUMBERS

A call number located on the spine of the book tells you where you can find that book in the library. The number tells you what section of the library holds the book and the letters come from the first two letters of the author's last name.

Example: All About Insects by Jay T. Bugg has a call number of;

595
Bu

Sometimes call numbers will have a decimal point.

Example: 595.1 This is just a way of dividing the sections in the system again.

Call numbers are arranged in number order. Then the numbers following the point are put in order. And then the letters of the author's name are put in order.

Example: 92.1
92.5 Which comes first? 92.1

Example: 974.1
975.1 Which comes first? 974.1

Example: 92.1
Ab

92.1
Tr Which comes first? 92.1
Ab

