

ACTIVITY IA3.10: Numeral Ladder

Intended learning: To build facility with forward and backward written number sequences.

Instructional mode: Longer, rehearsal mode for individuals or small groups.

⑥ **Materials:** Paper, or a printed numeral ladder, and a pen or pencil.

Description: A numeral ladder is a simple graphic organizer consisting of two long vertical lines crossed with horizontal rungs (see Figure 3.6). The teacher can prepare the activity using printed numeral ladders. Alternatively, ladders can be drawn easily on a white board or by students in their workbooks. Write a numeral on the bottom rung of a ladder. The students' task is to continue the sequence forwards, writing a numeral on each rung of the ladder. Alternatively, write a numeral on the top rung, for students to continue the sequence backwards.

Responses, variations and extensions:

- Sequences by 1s in higher centuries and millennia work well with numeral ladders.
- Additional scaffolding can be provided by initially supplying more numerals periodically along the ladder.
- A variation is to draw the ladder on the white board. A small group of students, each with a different colour of marker, take turns writing numerals to continue the sequence.

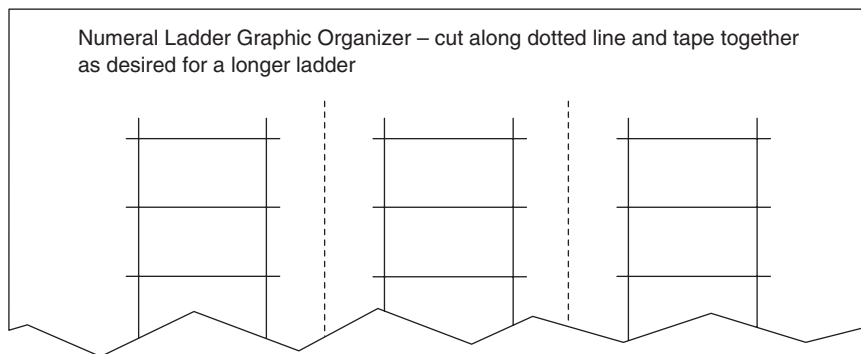


Figure 3.6 Blank numeral ladders