

Unlocking the Codes

The Book of Revelation uses symbolism to share a hopeful message to persecuted people. Let's explore some symbols you'll encounter in the passages of this lesson and see what they mean.

Numbers:

- 3: Signifies greatness
- 4: Symbolizes universality (as in the four directions on a compass or map)
- 6: Stands for imperfection and failure, because it is one short of 7
- 7: Stands for perfection, fullness, or totality
- 10: Also symbolizes perfection
- 12: Completeness. It's 3 times 4. Also the number of Apostles and Tribes of Israel
- 24: Perfection of God's people: The 12 tribes (Old Testament) and 12 Apostles (New Testament)
- 666: Three sixes means extreme imperfection, complete failure, superlative evil.
- 1,000: Means an incalculable or eternal amount
- 144,000: 12 times 12 times 1,000 means limitless or complete, the new People of God

Colors:

- White: victory, joy, glory
- Black: suffering, death, famine
- Red: war, violence, vengeance
- Green: death and decay
- Purple: royalty, luxury

Things:

- Eye: wisdom, knowledge
- Horn: strength, power
- Trumpet: alarm, message
- Sword: war, judgment
- Crown: royalty, power, victory

Creatures:

- Lion: brave, noble
- Dragon: evil, Satan
- Beast: Roman Empire and the false prophets
- Lamb: animal of sacrifice
- Horse: might, invasion, speed

What's Your Number?

The number 666 is said to stand for Nero, emperor at the time of the first persecution of Christians. This is based on the letters in his name and the values assigned to them in other alphabets. By adding the values assigned below to the letters in your first and last name, calculate a number to represent you.

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

____ + ____ = _____

Maddening Mad-Lib

Create a crazy story by inserting a number, color, thing or creature from the columns above onto the lines of the following paragraph. On the lines that say “your number,” use the number you came up with in the “What’s Your Number?” section on this handout.

There once was an awesome _____ named _____ who rode a _____ _____.
creature your number color creature

_____ had _____ _____ _____ on its head, and used them to defeat the _____
your number number color things number

_____ _____ with _____ _____ on its nose that hides in the depths of its backpack.
color creature number things

