## Worksheet Activity: Working With Binary

The binary system uses **zero** and **one** to represent whether a card is face up or not. **0** shows that a card is hidden, and **1** means that you can see the dots. For example:



Can you work out what 10101 is? What about 11111?

What day of the month were you born? Write it in binary. Find out what your friend's birthdays are in binary.

## Try to work out these coded numbers:



**Extra for Experts:** Using a set of rods of length 1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 units show how you can make any length up to 31 units. Or you could surprise an adult and show them how they only need a balance scale and a few weights to be able to weigh those heavy things like suitcases or boxes!

Photocopiable for classroom use only. © 2002 Computer Science Unplugged (www.unplugged.canterbury.ac.nz)

## Worksheet Activity: Sending Secret Messages

Tom is trapped on the top floor of a department store. It's just before Christmas and he wants to get home with his presents. What can he do? He has tried calling, even yelling, but there is no one around. Across the street he can see some computer person still working away late into the night. How could he attract her attention? Tom looks around to see what he could use. Then he has a brilliant idea—he can use the Christmas tree lights to send her a message! He finds all the lights and plugs them in so he can turn them on and off. He uses a simple binary code, which he knows the woman across the street is sure to understand. Can you work it out?

