Ben Orlin's Slightly Overwhelming List of Places to Look for Cool Math Stuff

compiled with help from Claude, but limited to those I can personally vouch for

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: PLEASE USE THESE RESOURCES TO COMPLEMENT YOUR CORE CURRICULUM, NOT TO REPLACE IT. THE GROWING MIND NEEDS A BALANCED DIET; YOUR CURRICULUM SHALL ALWAYS BE THE BASE OF THAT DIET.

Cartoons/Memes:

- **Math with Bad Drawings** (https://cartoons.mathwithbaddrawings.com/)
- **"Math Memes" subreddit** (https://www.reddit.com/r/mathmemes/top/?t=all)
- **"Memes for Mathematicians"** (https://www.instagram.com/memeformathematicians)
- **xkcd** (https://xkcd.com, or see my sortable spreadsheet catalog at https://mathwithbaddrawings.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/xkcd-math-catalog.xlsx)

Videos:

- **TED-Ed (math riddles and lessons).** Animated 4–6 minute videos. The riddle series ("Can you solve the…?") is suited to classroom use.
- **3Blue1Brown (Grant Sanderson).** Too advanced for middle school, but brilliant for calculus, linear algebra, etc.
- **Numberphile.** Hundreds of videos on curious numbers and problems, with a large cast of mathematicians. Good for "math is weird and wonderful" moments.

- **Stand-up Maths (Matt Parker).** Funny, hands-on and often built around real-world blunders, like spreadsheet errors or bad statistics in the news.

- **Eddie Woo (WooTube).** An Australian high school teacher filming his real lessons. As useful to teachers for how he explains things as it is to students.

Puzzles and Problems:

- **Open Middle:** problems with one right answer but many ways to get there, often "fill in the digits 1–9 to make this true." **A fabulous resource**.
- **NRICH:** Cambridge University's free library of rich problems for ages 3 to 18, each with teacher notes and student solutions. **Meaty and curricular**.
- **Play With Your Math:** a numbered series of free printable posters, each one open-ended puzzle (like "Twelve Toothpicks" or "Digit Bracelets") meant to hang on a classroom wall and invite exploration. **Great for enrichment**.
- **MathPickle:** free curricular puzzles and games for grades K–8, designed to engage gifted and struggling students alike. **Great for enrichment**.
- **Math = Love (Sarah Carter):** a high school teacher's blog with a large, well-organized collection of logic, math and hands-on puzzles she has tested in class. **Good general resource**.
- **KrazyDad:** sudoku, KenKen-style, maze and logic puzzles (including tons of styles you've never heard of), sorted by difficulty and ready to print and photocopy. **Best for brain breaks and off-topic logic puzzles**.
- **Art of Problem Solving:** the home of competition math, with a huge free wiki of past contest problems (AMC, MATHCOUNTS, etc.) and solutions. **Good for enrichment**.
- **Brilliant:** polished, interactive puzzles and courses on logic, algebra and probability. **Mostly behind a paywall**, with a few free daily problems.

Games:

- Math Games with Bad Drawings (**book**): 75 simple games, most needing just pencil and paper, each with a note on the math behind it.
- Math Games with Bad Drawings (**site**): a few of the games from the book.

- **Math for Love:** free classroom games with clear rules and teacher notes, from the makers of Prime Climb and Tiny Polka Dot.
- **John Golden's list of math games**. A great resource!
- **SET:** the classic card game of visual logic. A deck costs about $10, and the free daily puzzle on their site works as a two-minute warm-up.

Other Excellent Teaching Resources:

- **Slow Reveal Graphs (Jenna Laib):** real data graphs revealed a piece at a time, so students build meaning as they go.
- **Visual Patterns (Fawn Nguyen):** growing pictorial patterns where students find step 43 and the general rule. A natural bridge into algebra.
- **Estimation 180 (Andrew Stadel):** a photo-based estimation challenge for every day of the school year, building number sense in grades 3–8.
- **Would You Rather Math (John Stevens) :** "Would you rather…?" choices that students settle with math, sorted by grade from K–12. I believe it's John Stevens's site, but the page doesn't name its author, so check that before citing it.
- **Fraction Talks (Nat Banting):** shapes cut into pieces where students name and justify each piece's fraction.
- **What's Going On in This Graph? (NYT Learning Network and the American Statistical Association):** a weekly real-world graph from the Times with a live student discussion.
- **Which One Doesn't Belong? (Christopher Danielson):** sets of four shapes, numbers or graphs where every one can be argued to be the odd one out.
- **3-Act Tasks (Dan Meyer):** short videos or photos that end on a question students actually want answered, like how long the water tank takes to fill.
- **3-Act Tasks (Graham Fletcher):** the same format built for elementary grades.