When I was at Muskrat Elementary School, I had trouble learning to multiply the numbers from 6 to 9. Then, my mother showed me a handy way to find the answers.

Would you like to see how it works?

**MUSKRAT MULTIPLICATION**

1. Hold your hands up with your palms towards you. Now, imagine that your fingers are numbered the same way as in the picture below.

2. What numbers do you want to multiply? 9 x 8? Okay, touch the tip of the 9 finger from one hand with the tip of the 8 finger from the other hand.

3. Imagine that there is a line drawn just above the touching fingers. Count the number of fingers **below** the line. (In this example, there are seven fingers below the line.) Multiply that number by ten. (7 x 10 = 70)

   Now, look at the fingers (including thumbs) **above** the line. In this example, the left hand has one (1) finger or thumb above the line and the right hand has two (2). Multiply those numbers together. (1 x 2 = 2)

   Finally, add your two products. (70 + 2 = 72)

   That's the answer! 9 x 8 = 72

4. Let's try another problem! How about 6 x 7? Put your six and seven fingers together.

   How many fingers are **below** the imaginary line? Multiply that number by ten. (3 x 10 = 30)

   Look at the fingers (including thumbs) **above** the line. In this example, the left hand has four (4) fingers above the line and the right hand has three (3). Multiply those numbers. (4 x 3 = 12)

   Finally, add the two products. (30 + 12 = 42)

   That's the answer! 6 x 7 = 42
Are you getting good at this?
Look at the picture below and give the answer.  $8 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$

What is the product?  $7 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

What is the product?  $7 \times 9 = \underline{\quad}$

What is the product?  $8 \times 6 = \underline{\quad}$

$6 \times 6 = \underline{\quad}$

$9 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$9 \times 9 = \underline{\quad}$

$7 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$