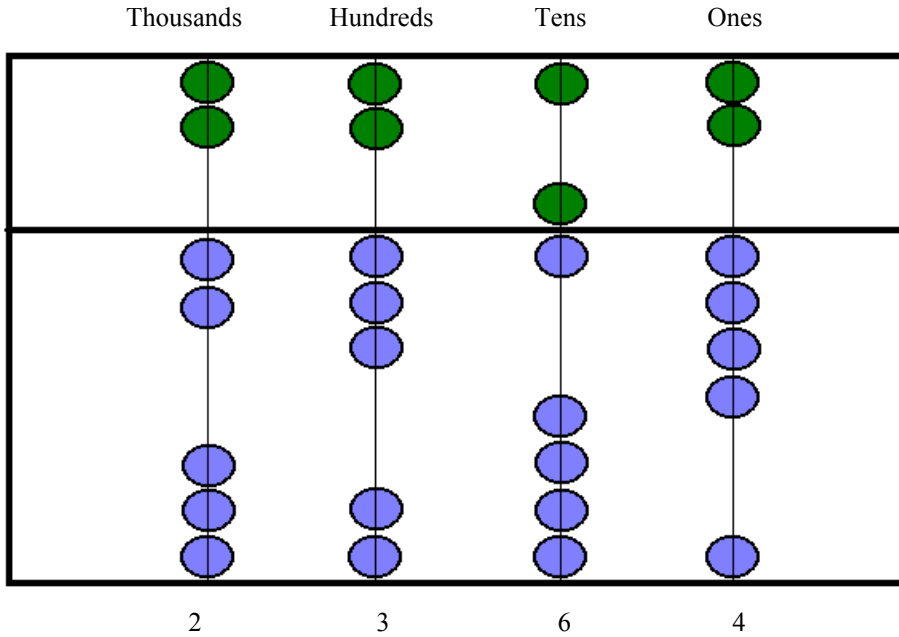


## How to use your abacus

**Reading a number on the abacus.** The abacus works on the place value system. Reading it is almost like reading a written numeral. The five beads below the bar each have a value of 1. The two beads above the bar each have a value of 5. The beads which are pushed against the bar represent the number. The number on the abacus is 2,364.



**Adding on the abacus.** Suppose you want to add  $2,364 + 3,473$ . To do this put 2364 on the abacus. You need to move 3 to the center on the right-hand string. There aren't three singles. Instead, you can move a 5 to the center and move 2 1's back. Move 2 5's and one 1 to the center on the tens string. You have two 5's on the tens string so you can regroup. Move the two 5's on the tens string away from the center and move a 1 to the center on the hundreds string. Now you need to move 4 to the center on the hundreds string. To do this move 5 to the center and one away from the center on the hundreds string. Last step: move 3 ones to the center on the thousands string. You now have five ones at the center on the thousands string, so you move them away and replace them with a 5. Here's the result:

