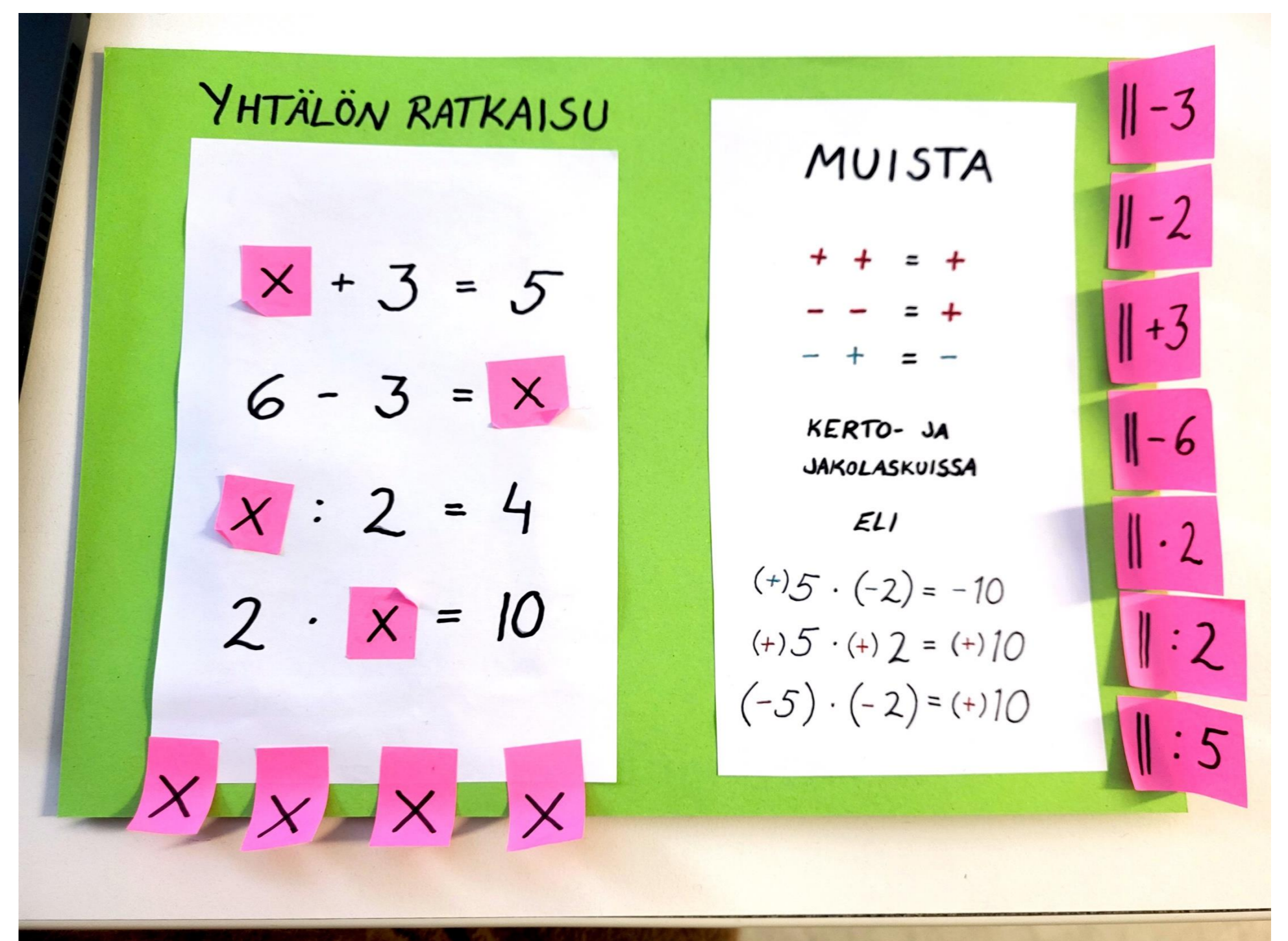


# Low-Cost Experiments in STEM Education

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## Exploring equations in a fun way with paper and post-it notes

Sometimes it is just too scary to face a new and complex-looking mathematical phenomenon. X doesn't bite us, but we may still be too frightened to feel relaxed and familiar with it. This low-cost project turns the idea of the unknown X into a playful experience. Using only an A4-sheet and post-it notes, students can create and explore their own simple equations. The activity transforms abstract algebra into something visible, interactive and fun. By designing and solving their own equations, students gently overcome fear of variables and gain intuitive understanding of what an equation really means.



*We all might remember the first time we met unknown and equation.*

*Students can decide which numbers they want to hide behind X.*

**Conclusion:** At first glance, equations may seem complex if you don't understand the nature of the unknown. A fun way to meet X, is to hide numbers from simple and selfmade calculations.