The Atlantic/Pacific Rule for Determining Significant Figures

1) look for the presence, or not, of a decimal point
- this will tell you which side to start counting from
- Pacific: left
- Atlantic: right

2) if there is a decimal point you start counting from the left side of the number
- starting from the very left side of the number, look for the first non-zero number
- count the first non-zero number and every number (0-9) after that
- example: 0.00010
- because there is a decimal point, we start from the left side of the equation ☞0.00010, and look for the first non-zero number
0.000**1**0
- count that number and every number after that regardless of what the number is (0-9)
- in this case there are 2 significant figures
- 0.000**10**

3) if there is **not** a decimal point you start counting from the right side of the number
- starting from the very right side of the number, look for the first non-zero number
- count the first non-zero number and every number (0-9) after that
- example: 721000
- because there is a decimal point, we start from the right side of the equation 721000☜, and look for the first non-zero number
72**1**000
- count that number and every number after that regardless of what the number is (0-9)
- in this case there are 3 significant figures
- **721**000