

Count Smart Stories

Choose a counting plan, solve, and check.

GRADES K-12 • MA.K12.MTR.3.1

MA.K12.MTR.3.1 "Complete tasks with mathematical fluency. Mathematicians who complete tasks with mathematical fluency: Select efficient and appropriate methods for solving problems within the given context..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAKE A COUNTING PLAN

First decide if things are joining or leaving. Count on when more things join, and count back when things leave. Check by counting all the things again in a new way.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Ava has 5 red balloons. She gets 2 blue balloons. How many balloons does Ava have?

1. More balloons join, so count on.
2. Start at 5. Count 6, 7.
3. Count all the balloons again to check.

Answer: 7 balloons

PRACTICE 6 problems

- 1** Leo has 3 toy cars. He gets 4 more toy cars. How many toy cars does he have? Solve and check by counting all.

ANSWER _____

- 2** A nest has 8 eggs. 1 egg hatches. How many eggs are still in the nest? Solve and check by counting back.

ANSWER _____

- 3** Nora finds 6 shells at the beach. She finds 3 more shells. How many shells does she have? Solve and check.

ANSWER _____

- 4** A game box has 10 puzzle pieces. Sam puts 4 pieces on the table. How many pieces are still in the box? Solve and check.

ANSWER _____

- 5** 1 bird sits on a fence. 8 more birds land on the fence. How many birds are on the fence? Solve and check by counting all.

ANSWER _____

- 6** Ava has 4 grapes. Her dad gives her 4 more grapes. How many grapes does Ava have? Solve and check.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** At recess, 8 children are playing hopscotch. 1 more child joins them. How many children are playing hopscotch now? Show your counting plan and check your answer.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** A class has 9 beanbags for a game. 1 beanbag is put away. How many beanbags are ready for the game? Show your counting plan and check your answer.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

Mia has 6 crayons. Her friend gives her 4 more crayons. Mia gives 1 crayon to her brother. How many crayons does Mia have now? Tell how you checked.

PART 1 • PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	Leo has 3 toy cars. He gets 4 more toy cars. How many toy cars does he have? Solve and check by counting all.	7 toy cars
2	A nest has 8 eggs. 1 egg hatches. How many eggs are still in the nest? Solve and check by counting back.	7 eggs
3	Nora finds 6 shells at the beach. She finds 3 more shells. How many shells does she have? Solve and check.	9 shells
4	A game box has 10 puzzle pieces. Sam puts 4 pieces on the table. How many pieces are still in the box? Solve and check.	6 puzzle pieces
5	1 bird sits on a fence. 8 more birds land on the fence. How many birds are on the fence? Solve and check by counting all.	9 birds
6	Ava has 4 grapes. Her dad gives her 4 more grapes. How many grapes does Ava have? Solve and check.	8 grapes

PART 2 • APPLY IT

1. **9 children** More children join, so count on from 8 to 9. Check by counting all 9 children.
2. **8 beanbags** A beanbag leaves, so count back from 9 to 8. Check by counting the beanbags that are ready.

CHALLENGE

9 crayons. Sample check: 6 plus 4 is 10, and 10 take away 1 is 9.

Accept the number alone or the number with the item name. For the challenge, accept any clear check that shows 6 plus 4 equals 10 and 10 take away 1 equals 9.