Balance Math Hunt

Students listen, compare both sides of an equation, and circle a true balance.

1.CE.1.i "Describe the equal symbol (=) as a balance representing an equivalent relationship between expressions on either side of the equal symbol (e.g., 6 and 1 is the same as 4 and 3; 6 + 1 is balanced with 4 + 3; 6 + 1 = 4 + 3)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

Teacher: this page is run aloud. The script and answers are on the guide page.

1 FIND BALANCE

a	2+4=3+3	2+4=4+3	2+4=1+4
b	5+2=3+3	5+2=4+3	5+2=5+3
c	1+6=3+3	1+6=5+3	1+6=4+3

2 TRUE EQUALS

a	4+4=5+3	4+4=4+3	4+4=5+2
b	6+2=5+2	6+2=4+4	6+2=6+3
c	3+5=4+3	3+5=2+5	3+5=6+2

ANSWER KEY

Balance Math Hunt

GRADE 1 · 1.CE.1.i

HOW TO RUN THIS PAGE

Explain that the equal sign is like a balance. It means the amount on the left is the same as the amount on the right. Model by reading 3+3=5+1 and counting each side aloud, then have students say, "same as."

Students never read directions on this sheet. Read each part's script aloud, then each prompt, giving think time before students mark.

PART 1 · FIND BALANCE

SAY "Each choice is a math sentence with an equal sign. Listen to both sides, count if you need to, and circle the sentence that is balanced."

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Which sentence is balanced: 2 plus 4 equals 3 plus 3, 2 plus 4 equals 4 plus 3, or 2 plus 4 equals 1 plus 4?	**2+4=3+3**
b	Which sentence is balanced: 5 plus 2 equals 3 plus 3, 5 plus 2 equals 4 plus 3, or 5 plus 2 equals 5 plus 3?	**5+2=4+3**
c	Which sentence is balanced: 1 plus 6 equals 3 plus 3, 1 plus 6 equals 5 plus 3, or 1 plus 6 equals 4 plus 3?	**1+6=4+3**

PART 2 · TRUE EQUALS

SAY "Look at the equal sign in each choice. Read the amount on the left and the amount on the right with me, then circle the equation that shows the same amount on both sides."

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Which equation has the same amount on both sides: 4 plus 4 equals 5 plus 3, 4 plus 4 equals 4 plus 3, or 4 plus 4 equals 5 plus 2?	**4+4=5+3**
b	Which equation has the same amount on both sides: 6 plus 2 equals 5 plus 2, 6 plus 2 equals 4 plus 4, or 6 plus 2 equals 6 plus 3?	**6+2=4+4**
c	Which equation has the same amount on both sides: 3 plus 5 equals 4 plus 3, 3 plus 5 equals 2 plus 5, or 3 plus 5 equals 6 plus 2?	**3+5=6+2**

WHAT TO ACCEPT

Accept one circle in each row: first part, first, second, third; second part, first, second, third. Listen for students to describe = as meaning the same amount on both sides or a balance. In True Equals row b, 6 + 2 and 4 + 4 both equal 8; the other right sides equal 7 and 9. Ask children to explain why the two sides balance.