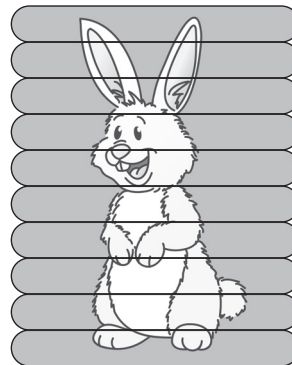
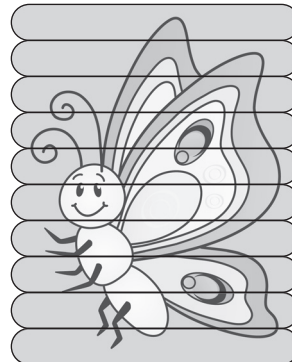


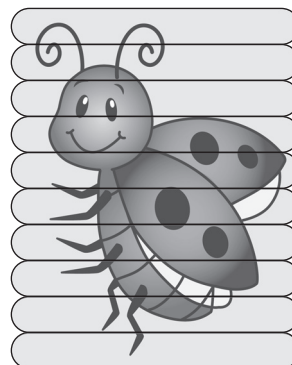
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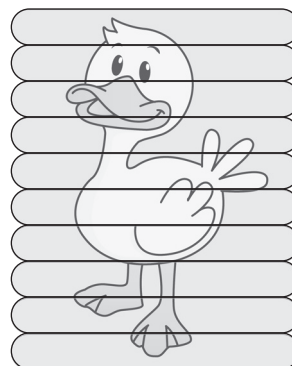
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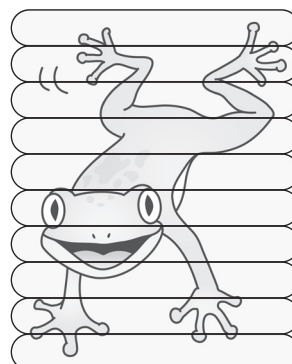
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☆ 3 19 2 10 16 4 13 5 12



☆ 1 7 9 18 5 16 8 13 19



Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Counting - Mental Math Sticks™

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- 50 Two-sided Mental Math Sticks™ (5 sets of 10)
- Zippered Storage Pouch
- This Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Counting - Mental Math Sticks™**—a fun, self-checking way for students to practice counting objects.

Meeting the Standards

The Really Good Stuff® **Counting - Mental Math Sticks™** aligns with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics below. For alignment with other state standards, please refer to our website's Standards Match.

Counting and Cardinality

- K.CC.B.4** Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.
- K.CC.B.4.a** When counting objects, say the number names in the standard order, pairing each object with one and only one number name and each number name with one and only one object.
- K.CC.B.4.b** Understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted. The number of objects is the same regardless of their arrangement or the order in which they were counted.
- K.CC.B.4.c** Understand that each successive number name refers to a quantity that is one larger.
- K.CC.B.5** Count to answer "how many?" questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1–20, count out that many objects.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- K.OA.A.1** Represent addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds (e.g., claps), acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions, or equations.

Preparing and Displaying the Counting - Mental Math Sticks™

Before introducing the **Counting - Mental Math Sticks™**, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide, and file the pages for future use.

Each set of 10 *Mental Math Sticks™* is color-coded to display a different picture on the reverse side after solving the problems. Consider wrapping each set of 10 *Sticks* together with a rubber band. For safekeeping, put each set in the provided *Zippered Storage Pouch* along with a copy of the *Counting - Mental Math Sticks™ Reproducible*, which students can use to self-check their work. Place the *Pouch* in a math-focused area of the classroom, where students will be able to interact with it easily. Remind them to store the *Sticks* and reproducible in the *Pouch* when they have completed any activity.

Introducing the Counting - Mental Math Sticks™

Gather students in a classroom meeting area with one set of similarly colored *Math Sticks*. You may also use an opaque overhead projector to display the *Sticks*. Explain to students

that they will use the *Sticks* to practice their counting skills through 20.

Lay out the *Sticks* randomly with problem-side up on a table or floor. Show students various *Sticks*, pointing out the position of the star, the flag, the answer, and drawing their attention to the picture on the back. Then direct students' attention to the *Stick* with the star. Count the items out loud together. Ask a student to find the *Stick* with that answer and instruct him or her to place it under the first *Stick*. Continue this process until students have lined up all 10 *Sticks* in the set. Remind students that each set of *Sticks* begins with a star and ends with a flag.

Then, one by one, turn the *Sticks* over to reveal a picture. Refer students to the *Counting - Mental Math Sticks™ Reproducible* as well, drawing their attention to the set you have just completed. Remind students that they can also use the reproducible to self-check their work.

Ideas for Counting - Mental Math Sticks™

- Have the *Sticks* available for students who finish their work early so they can practice their counting skills.
- Use the *Sticks* as an individual math center activity.
- Have a group of five students play a game with the *Sticks*. The group can work together to solve the problems in order to reveal the picture, or have each student in a group work on a different set to see who completes his or her set first.
- Have students solve the problems on the *Sticks* in reverse order, beginning with the *Stick* with the flag and ending with the *Stick* with the star.

Mental Math Sticks Race

Divide your class into five numbered teams and place one set of **Counting - Mental Math Sticks™** with the pieces randomly scattered, on five separate tables or desks at the front of the room. Have each team line up about 10 feet away from their assigned table or desk. When you say "go," the first member of each team runs up to the table or desk to find the *Stick* with the star. Then he or she goes back to his or her teammates, taps the hand of the next student in line, and that student runs up to the table to solve the problem and find and place the correct *Stick*. Continue until all teams have put their *Sticks* in order by solving the problems and revealed the picture by flipping over the *Sticks*. The first group to complete their set wins.

Make Your Own Mental Math Sticks

Challenge your students to create their own set of *Mental Math Sticks*. Provide each student with a set of ten similar-colored craft sticks and fine-point permanent markers. Ask each student to put counting problems on each of his or her sticks and then create pictures on the reverse side of the ordered sticks. Once you check students' sets for accuracy, add them to your collection.

All instructional guides can be found online.