Maya Counts Arctic Animals — Grade 1

Grade 1 math arctic-animals

Students will count forward and backward within 20 using an arctic adventure story context.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Maya finds 4 polar bear paw prints in the snow. She finds 2 more prints. How many prints does Maya count in all? Show your counting.

2. Maya spots a rare find: 3 baby seals on the ice. Then she spots 5 more baby seals. How many baby seals does Maya see? Show your counting.

3. Maya finds a unique item: a walrus tusk with 9 carved lines. She counts 4 more lines on the back. How many lines are on the tusk? Show your counting.

4. Maya counts 12 arctic fox tracks. The wind blows 3 tracks away. How many tracks does Maya still see? Show your counting.

5. Maya finds a special object: a glowing ice crystal. She has 7 crystals. Her friend gives her 6 more. How many crystals does Maya have now? Show your counting.

6. Maya finds a hidden treasure: a chest of 15 narwhal horns. She gives 6 horns to her team. How many horns does Maya keep? Show your counting.

7. Maya sees 8 snowy owls in one tree. She sees 9 snowy owls in the next tree. Is the total more than 15? Circle YES or NO. Then show your counting to prove it.

8. Maya reaches the hidden treasure cave! Inside she finds rare finds lined up in a row: 2 crystals, then 4 crystals, then 6 crystals. What number comes next in Maya's pattern? Write the next 2 numbers. Then write how many rare finds Maya counted in all across all 4 groups. Show every step.

Answer Key: Maya Counts Arctic Animals — Grade 1

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> After Q6, ask students to act out Maya lining up 15 seal tracks using counting chips — this mirrors the skip-count bridge introduced in Q8 and gives a physical anchor for the number line work.

1. Maya finds 4 polar bear paw prints in the snow. She finds 2 more prints. How many prints does Maya count in all? Show your counting.

Answer: Q1: 4 prints + 2 more prints. Count on: 4 → 5 → 6. Maya counts 6 paw prints in all.

2. Maya spots a rare find: 3 baby seals on the ice. Then she spots 5 more baby seals. How many baby seals does Maya see? Show your counting.

Answer: Q2: 3 seals + 5 more seals. Count on: 3 → 4 → 5 → 6 → 7 → 8. Maya sees 8 baby seals in all.

3. Maya finds a unique item: a walrus tusk with 9 carved lines. She counts 4 more lines on the back. How many lines are on the tusk? Show your counting.

Answer: Q3: 9 lines + 4 more lines. Count on: 9 → 10 → 11 → 12 → 13. There are 13 lines on the tusk.

4. Maya counts 12 arctic fox tracks. The wind blows 3 tracks away. How many tracks does Maya still see? Show your counting.

Answer: Q4: 12 tracks – 3 tracks blown away. Count back: 12 → 11 → 10 → 9. Maya still sees 9 fox tracks.

5. Maya finds a special object: a glowing ice crystal. She has 7 crystals. Her friend gives her 6 more. How many crystals does Maya have now? Show your counting.

Answer: Q5: 7 crystals + 6 more crystals. Count on: 7 → 8 → 9 → 10 → 11 → 12 → 13. Maya has 13 crystals in all.

6. Maya finds a hidden treasure: a chest of 15 narwhal horns. She gives 6 horns to her team. How many horns does Maya keep? Show your counting.

Answer: Q6: 15 horns – 6 horns given away. Count back: 15 → 14 → 13 → 12 → 11 → 10 → 9. Maya keeps 9 narwhal horns.

7. Maya sees 8 snowy owls in one tree. She sees 9 snowy owls in the next tree. Is the total more than 15? Circle YES or NO. Then show your counting to prove it.

Answer: Q7: 8 owls + 9 owls. Count on: 8 → 9 → 10 → 11 → 12 → 13 → 14 → 15 → 16 → 17. Total = 17 owls. 17 is more than 15. Answer: YES.

8. Maya reaches the hidden treasure cave! Inside she finds rare finds lined up in a row: 2 crystals, then 4 crystals, then 6 crystals. What number comes next in Maya's pattern? Write the next 2 numbers. Then write how many rare finds Maya counted in all across all 4 groups. Show every step.

Answer: Q8 Part 1 — Pattern: 2, 4, 6, → each group adds 2 more. Next number = 6 + 2 = 8. Number after that = 8 + 2 = 10. The next two numbers are 8 and 10. Q8 Part 2 — Total across all 4 groups: 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 = count on: 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6 (that is 2+4=6) → 7 → 8 → 9 → 10 → 11 → 12 (that is 6+6=12) → 13 → 14 → 15 → 16 → 17 → 18 → 19 → 20 (that is 12+8=20). Maya counted 20 rare finds in all. Maya completed her arctic mission!