

Maya's Desert treasure hunt math adventure

Grade 1

math

desert

Students will count forward and backward within 20 using a desert adventure story.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Maya sees 5 gold rocks. She counts each one: 1, 2, 3, 4, _____. What number comes next?

2. Maya finds 3 special blue stones. She finds 2 more. How many stones does Maya have now?

3. Maya spots 8 rare cactus seeds in a row. She counts back 3. What number does Maya land on?

4. Maya digs up a unique jar. It holds 6 red gems and 4 green gems. How many gems total?

5. True or False: Maya counts 12 rare snake tracks. She skips 2 each time: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12. That is 6 skips.

6. Maya fills a hidden treasure chest. She puts in 7 gold coins. Then she adds 8 more coins. How many coins are in the chest?

7. Maya finds a rare find: 20 desert pearls. She gives 6 away to a friend. How many pearls does Maya keep?

8. Maya opens the hidden treasure at last! Inside she finds a special object: a golden map. Next to the map are 9 silver stars and 9 bronze stars. Maya counts all the stars to win her quest. How many stars does Maya count in total? Show your counting.

Answer Key: Maya's Desert treasure hunt math adventure

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

Before Q6, pause and ask students to count aloud with Maya as she finds her 15 rare cactus seeds — use fingers or desert-themed counters so students can physically act out the counting sequence with her.

1. Maya sees 5 gold rocks. She counts each one: 1, 2, 3, 4, _____. What number comes next?

Answer: Maya counts: 1, 2, 3, 4 → the next number is 5. Answer: 5

2. Maya finds 3 special blue stones. She finds 2 more. How many stones does Maya have now?

Answer: Maya counts on: 3 → 4, 5. $3 + 2 = 5$. Answer: 5 special blue stones

3. Maya spots 8 rare cactus seeds in a row. She counts back 3. What number does Maya land on?

Answer: Maya counts back: 8 → 7, 6, 5. $8 - 3 = 5$. Answer: 5

4. Maya digs up a unique jar. It holds 6 red gems and 4 green gems. How many gems total?

Answer: Maya counts on from 6: 6 → 7, 8, 9, 10. $6 + 4 = 10$. Answer: 10 gems in the unique jar

5. True or False: Maya counts 12 rare snake tracks. She skips 2 each time: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12. That is 6 skips.

**Answer: Maya skip-counts: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 → count the skips: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. That is 6 skips.
Answer: TRUE**

6. Maya fills a hidden treasure chest. She puts in 7 gold coins. Then she adds 8 more coins. How many coins are in the chest?

Answer: Maya counts on from 7: 7 → 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. $7 + 8 = 15$. Answer: 15 gold coins in the hidden treasure chest

7. Maya finds a rare find: 20 desert pearls. She gives 6 away to a friend. How many pearls does Maya keep?

Answer: Maya counts back from 20: 20 → 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14. $20 - 6 = 14$. Answer: 14 desert pearls

8. Maya opens the hidden treasure at last! Inside she finds a special object: a golden map. Next to the map are 9 silver stars and 9 bronze stars. Maya counts all the stars to win her quest. How many stars does Maya count in total? Show your counting.

Answer: Maya counts on from 9: 9 → 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. $9 + 9 = 18$. Maya counts 18 stars total and wins her desert quest! Answer: 18 stars