

Maya's Earth Day Counting Adventure

Grade 1

math

earth-day

Students will count forward and backward within 20 using Earth Day objects as context.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Maya finds 3 rare seeds. She finds 2 more rare seeds. How many rare seeds does Maya have now? Count on to find out. 3 ... 4 ... 5

2. Maya spots 6 unique beetles on a log. She counts 4 more unique beetles nearby. How many unique beetles in all? Fill in the blank: $6 + 4 = \underline{\quad}$

3. Maya collects 8 special flowers. She gives 3 special flowers to her friend. How many special flowers does Maya have left? Show your counting.

4. True or False: Maya counts 7 rare finds in the pond. Then she counts 8 more rare finds. Maya has 16 rare finds in all. Write True or False and show your counting.

5. Maya digs up a hidden treasure with 12 smooth river stones inside. She takes out 5 river stones to share. How many river stones stay in Maya's hidden treasure? Show your counting down.

6. Maya counts raindrops on 2 leaves. The first leaf has 8 raindrops. The second leaf has 6 raindrops. How many raindrops does Maya count in all? Fill in: $8 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$. Then count on to check your answer.

7. Maya lines up her rare finds to count them. She has 17 rare finds. She loses 9 rare finds in the mud. Then she finds 4 more rare finds under a rock. How many rare finds does Maya have now? Show each step.

8. Maya reaches the hidden treasure at the end of the trail! Inside the hidden treasure she counts 5 special objects in the first row, 5 special objects in the second row, and 5 special objects in the third row. Skip-count by 5s to find the total: 5, , . How many special objects did Maya find in the hidden treasure? Maya plants one special object back in the soil for Earth Day. How many special objects does she take home? Show both steps.

Answer Key: Maya's Earth Day Counting Adventure

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

After Q6, ask students to act out Maya's raindrop counting using their fingers — this directly mirrors the 14-raindrop problem and makes the skip-count pattern visible.

1. Maya finds 3 rare seeds. She finds 2 more rare seeds. How many rare seeds does Maya have now? Count on to find out. 3 ... 4 ... 5

Answer: Count on from 3: 3 + 2 = 3, 4, 5. Maya has 5 rare seeds.

2. Maya spots 6 unique beetles on a log. She counts 4 more unique beetles nearby. How many unique beetles in all? Fill in the blank: $6 + 4 = \underline{\quad}$

Answer: Count on from 6: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. $6 + 4 = 10$ unique beetles.

3. Maya collects 8 special flowers. She gives 3 special flowers to her friend. How many special flowers does Maya have left? Show your counting.

Answer: Count back from 8: 8, 7, 6, 5. $8 - 3 = 5$ special flowers left.

4. True or False: Maya counts 7 rare finds in the pond. Then she counts 8 more rare finds. Maya has 16 rare finds in all. Write True or False and show your counting.

Answer: Count on from 7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. $7 + 8 = 15$, not 16. The answer is FALSE. Maya has 15 rare finds.

5. Maya digs up a hidden treasure with 12 smooth river stones inside. She takes out 5 river stones to share. How many river stones stay in Maya's hidden treasure? Show your counting down.

Answer: Count back from 12: 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7. $12 - 5 = 7$ river stones stay in the hidden treasure.

6. Maya counts raindrops on 2 leaves. The first leaf has 8 raindrops. The second leaf has 6 raindrops. How many raindrops does Maya count in all? Fill in: $8 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$. Then count on to check your answer.

Answer: Count on from 8: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. $8 + 6 = 14$ raindrops in all.

7. Maya lines up her rare finds to count them. She has 17 rare finds. She loses 9 rare finds in the mud. Then she finds 4 more rare finds under a rock. How many rare finds does Maya have now? Show each step.

Answer: Step 1 — count back from 17: 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8. $17 - 9 = 8$. Step 2 — count on from 8: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. $8 + 4 = 12$. Maya has 12 rare finds.

8. Maya reaches the hidden treasure at the end of the trail! Inside the hidden treasure she counts 5 special objects in the first row, 5 special objects in the second row, and 5 special objects in the third row. Skip-count by 5s to find the total: 5, $\underline{\quad}$, $\underline{\quad}$. How many special objects did Maya find in the hidden treasure? Maya plants one special object back in the soil for Earth Day. How many special objects does she take home? Show both steps.

Answer: Step 1 — skip-count by 5s: 5, 10, 15. There are 15 special objects in the hidden treasure. Step 2 — count back 1: $15 - 1 = 14$. Maya plants 1 back and takes home 14 special objects. Maya completed her Earth Day mission!

