

Maya's Valentine Hunt: Counting Adventure

Grade 1

math

valentines-day

Students will count forward and backward within 20 using Valentine's Day objects in a connected story.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Maya finds 3 pink heart cards. She finds 2 more heart cards. How many heart cards does Maya have now? Count on from 3: 3 ... 4, 5. Fill in the blank: Maya has ___ heart cards.

2. Maya spots a special red envelope on a tree branch. Inside are 4 tiny love notes. She counts 3 more love notes on the ground. How many love notes does Maya count in all? Count on from 4: 4 ... 5, 6, 7. Maya counts ___ love notes.

3. Maya finds a unique gold box. It holds 6 heart stickers on the left side. It holds 5 heart stickers on the right side. How many stickers are in Maya's unique gold box? Show your counting: 6 ... ____, ____, ____, ____, ____. The box holds ___ stickers.

4. Maya collects rare find silver coins. She has 8 coins in her left hand. She picks up 4 more rare find coins. How many coins does Maya hold now? Count on: 8 ... ____, ____, ____, ____. Maya holds ___ coins.

5. True or False? Maya lines up 14 heart cards in a row. She gives away 3 cards to a friend. Maya says she still has 12 heart cards left. Is Maya right? Count back from 14: 14 ... ____, ____, ____. Circle: TRUE or FALSE.

6. Maya lifts the lid of a hidden treasure chest. Inside she sees heart gems in 2 rows. The top row has 7 gems. The bottom row has 8 gems. Maya wants to count ALL gems. Start at 7, count on 8 more: 7 ... ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____. Maya finds ___ gems in the hidden treasure chest.

7. Maya counts 18 rare find ribbons in the chest. She uses 9 ribbons to wrap gifts. How many ribbons are left for Maya? Count back from 18: 18 ... ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____. Maya has ___ ribbons left. Then Maya finds 2 more ribbons under the chest. Now Maya has ___ ribbons in all.

8. Maya reaches the end of her Valentine hunt! She counts everything she found: 5 heart cards, 7 love notes, and 4 rare find gems from the hidden treasure chest. How many special Valentine items did Maya find on her whole adventure? First add $5 + 7$: count on from 5 ... ____. Then add that answer + 4: count on ... ____. Maya found ___ Valentine items. Draw a star next to Maya's biggest number on this whole worksheet!

Answer Key: Maya's Valentine Hunt: Counting Adventure

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

After Q6, ask students to point to Maya's biggest number on the worksheet — this anchors the counting-on strategy to the story's treasure chest moment and gives a concrete reference for the class discussion.

1. Maya finds 3 pink heart cards. She finds 2 more heart cards. How many heart cards does Maya have now? Count on from 3: 3 ... 4, 5. Fill in the blank: Maya has ___ heart cards.

Answer: Count on from 3: 3, then +1 = 4, +1 = 5. Maya has $3 + 2 = 5$ heart cards.

2. Maya spots a special red envelope on a tree branch. Inside are 4 tiny love notes. She counts 3 more love notes on the ground. How many love notes does Maya count in all? Count on from 4: 4 ... 5, 6, 7. Maya counts ___ love notes.

Answer: Count on from 4: 4, then +1 = 5, +1 = 6, +1 = 7. Maya counts $4 + 3 = 7$ love notes.

3. Maya finds a unique gold box. It holds 6 heart stickers on the left side. It holds 5 heart stickers on the right side. How many stickers are in Maya's unique gold box? Show your counting: 6 ... ___, ___, ___, ___, ___. The box holds ___ stickers.

Answer: Count on from 6: 6, then +1=7, +1=8, +1=9, +1=10, +1=11. $6 + 5 = 11$ stickers in the unique gold box.

4. Maya collects rare find silver coins. She has 8 coins in her left hand. She picks up 4 more rare find coins. How many coins does Maya hold now? Count on: 8 ... ___, ___, ___, ___. Maya holds ___ coins.

Answer: Count on from 8: 8, then +1=9, +1=10, +1=11, +1=12. $8 + 4 = 12$ rare find silver coins.

5. True or False? Maya lines up 14 heart cards in a row. She gives away 3 cards to a friend. Maya says she still has 12 heart cards left. Is Maya right? Count back from 14: 14 ... ___, ___, ___. Circle: TRUE or FALSE.

Answer: Count back from 14: 14, then -1=13, -1=12, -1=11. $14 - 3 = 11$, not 12. Maya is WRONG. The answer is FALSE.

6. Maya lifts the lid of a hidden treasure chest. Inside she sees heart gems in 2 rows. The top row has 7 gems. The bottom row has 8 gems. Maya wants to count ALL gems. Start at 7, count on 8 more: 7 ... ___, ___, ___, ___, ___, ___, ___. Maya finds ___ gems in the hidden treasure chest.

Answer: Count on from 7: 7, then +1=8, +1=9, +1=10, +1=11, +1=12, +1=13, +1=14, +1=15. $7 + 8 = 15$ gems in the hidden treasure chest.

7. Maya counts 18 rare find ribbons in the chest. She uses 9 ribbons to wrap gifts. How many ribbons are left for Maya? Count back from 18: 18 ... ___, ___, ___, ___, ___, ___, ___, ___, ___. Maya has ___ ribbons left. Then Maya finds 2 more ribbons under the chest. Now Maya has ___ ribbons in all.

Answer: Step 1 — Count back from 18: 18, then -1=17, -1=16, -1=15, -1=14, -1=13, -1=12, -1=11, -1=10, -1=9. $18 - 9 = 9$ ribbons left. Step 2 — Maya finds 2 more: $9 + 2 = 11$ ribbons in all.

8. Maya reaches the end of her Valentine hunt! She counts everything she found: 5 heart cards, 7 love notes, and 4 rare find gems from the hidden treasure chest. How many special Valentine items did Maya find on her whole adventure? First add $5 + 7$: count on from 5 ... ___. Then add that answer + 4: count on ... ___. Maya found ___ Valentine items. Draw a star next to Maya's biggest number on this whole worksheet!

Answer: Step 1 — $5 + 7$: count on from 5: 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 = 12. Step 2 — $12 + 4$: count on from 12: 12,13,14,15,16 = 16. Maya found $5 + 7 + 4 = 16$ Valentine items on her whole adventure. (Biggest single number on the worksheet is 18 from Q7 — students circle or star it.)



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