

Maya's Winter Wonderland Counting Quest

Grade 1

math

winter-wonderland

Students will count forward and backward within 20 using winter-wonderland objects as context.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Maya finds 3 special snowballs. She finds 2 more. How many special snowballs does Maya have now?

Show your counting: 3 ... 4 ... 5

2. Maya spots 4 unique icicles on a tree. She spots 3 more. Count on to find the total. $___ + ___ = ___$

3. Maya puts unique icicles in a row: 2, 4, 6, $___$, $___$. Fill in the missing numbers. What pattern do you see?

4. Maya collects 9 rare-find frost gems. She gives 4 to her friend. How many rare-find frost gems does Maya have left? Show your counting back: 9 ... 8 ... 7 ...

5. True or False? Maya counts 7 special snowballs and 8 unique icicles. She has 16 in all. Circle TRUE or FALSE. Show your count to check.

6. Maya reaches the frozen pond. She counts 15 rare-find snowflake crystals. The wind blows 6 away. How many crystals does Maya count now? Count back from 15 to find out.

7. Maya finds hidden treasure: a chest with two pockets. One pocket holds 8 gold snowflakes. The other holds 9 gold snowflakes. How many gold snowflakes are in the hidden treasure chest? Show all your counting steps.

8. Maya opens the hidden treasure chest. Inside she finds 17 gold snowflakes. She already had 3 rare-find frost gems in her bag. She counts ALL her treasures together. How many treasures does Maya have now? Show your two counting steps. Maya wins the winter quest!

Answer Key: Maya's Winter Wonderland Counting Quest

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

After Q6, ask students to act out Maya's frozen pond scene — have them physically count out 15 rare-find snowflake tokens on their desks, then remove 6 to mirror Maya's counting-back step. This connects the abstract number line to a hands-on moment directly from the worksheet.

1. Maya finds 3 special snowballs. She finds 2 more. How many special snowballs does Maya have now? Show your counting: 3 ... 4 ... 5

Answer: Start at 3. Count on 2 more: 3 → 4 → 5. Maya has 5 special snowballs.

2. Maya spots 4 unique icicles on a tree. She spots 3 more. Count on to find the total. $__ + __ = __$

Answer: Start at 4. Count on 3 more: 4 → 5 → 6 → 7. $4 + 3 = 7$. Maya spots 7 unique icicles.

3. Maya puts unique icicles in a row: 2, 4, 6, $__$, $__$. Fill in the missing numbers. What pattern do you see?

Answer: Skip-count by 2s: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. The missing numbers are 8 and 10. Maya counts by 2s.

4. Maya collects 9 rare-find frost gems. She gives 4 to her friend. How many rare-find frost gems does Maya have left? Show your counting back: 9 ... 8 ... 7 ...

Answer: Start at 9. Count back 4: 9 → 8 → 7 → 6 → 5. $9 - 4 = 5$. Maya has 5 rare-find frost gems.

5. True or False? Maya counts 7 special snowballs and 8 unique icicles. She has 16 in all. Circle TRUE or FALSE. Show your count to check.

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

6. Maya reaches the frozen pond. She counts 15 rare-find snowflake crystals. The wind blows 6 away. How many crystals does Maya count now? Count back from 15 to find out.

Answer: Start at 15. Count back 6: 15 → 14 → 13 → 12 → 11 → 10 → 9. $15 - 6 = 9$. Maya now counts 9 rare-find snowflake crystals.

7. Maya finds hidden treasure: a chest with two pockets. One pocket holds 8 gold snowflakes. The other holds 9 gold snowflakes. How many gold snowflakes are in the hidden treasure chest? Show all your counting steps.

Answer: Start at 9 (bigger number). Count on 8 more: 9 → 10 → 11 → 12 → 13 → 14 → 15 → 16 → 17. $8 + 9 = 17$. Maya's hidden treasure chest holds 17 gold snowflakes.

8. Maya opens the hidden treasure chest. Inside she finds 17 gold snowflakes. She already had 3 rare-find frost gems in her bag. She counts ALL her treasures together. How many treasures does Maya have now? Show your two counting steps. Maya wins the winter quest!

Answer: Step 1 — Maya already found: 17 gold snowflakes + 3 rare-find frost gems. Step 2 — Start at 17. Count on 3 more: 17 → 18 → 19 → 20. $17 + 3 = 20$. Maya wins the winter quest with 20 treasures in all!

