

The five-ness of 5

This is a task to explore the existence of the number 5 inside and outside the classroom. The idea is to find different ways and the different contexts where the number 5 appears, e.g.

- Arrange 5 teddy bears in different ways?
- Find a number 5 in a set of dominoes; how many fives are there?
- Find the number 5 in a pack of cards; how many fives are there?
- If the teacher were to choose a group of 5 children, how many girls and how many boys could there be in the group?
- Count from 5 backwards.
- What are these: I, II, III, IV, V?
- Count forwards from 1 up to 5 then backwards from 5 down to 1; do this lots of times as quickly as possible.
- Find 5 different colours in your classroom.
- Make up 5 questions that you would like to ask your teacher.
- Make up a story about the number 5.
- Find five tins of different kinds of food at home.
- Ask someone at home to say the 5 times table.
- What you were doing at 5-o'clock?
- What are your 5 favourite toys?
- Find five places where the number 5 is written at home?

The teacher might choose a number for the week. Consequently display work and/or a table might be used for a collection of items which pertain to the chosen number. Older children could be asked questions such as:

Explain why 5 is a prime number?

Find ways of making the number 5 using square numbers,
e.g. $1^2 + 2^2$, $3^2 - 2^2$, $5^2 - 4^2 - 2^2$

Explain why 5 is a number in the Fibonacci sequence.