MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Tally charts

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you count quickly in groups of five, like keeping score in a game, counting votes, or tallying survey answers, with one stroke per item and a cross stroke for every fifth. Four straight strokes and one stroke across them make a bundle of five, so you can read the total at a glance without counting one by one. That is how votes are counted, scores are kept, and survey answers are tallied, fast and without losing track. A tally chart turns a long list of marks into a count you can see in seconds.



Rule

Tally charts: a tally chart counts in groups of five, four straight strokes with one diagonal stroke across them.

Count the groups of five first, then count on the leftover strokes.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q How many tallies is this: four strokes, then one across?

SOLUTION

Count the upright strokes: 4 strokes.

The diagonal stroke crosses them, making a group of 5.

So the tally shows 5.

EXAMPLE 2

Q How many tallies is this: one group of 5, plus 2 more?

SOLUTION

Count the first group: 5 tallies.

Count the extra strokes: 2 tallies.

Add them: 5 + 2 = 7 tallies

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Practice questions

1 How many tally marks are there in all? Count by 5s, then count on.



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2 How many tally marks are there in all?



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3 How many tally marks are there in all?



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4 How many groups of 5 are there? Count the groups: 5, 10, 15



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5 How many tally marks are there in all?



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6 How many tally marks are there in all? Count by 5s, then count on.



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7 How many tally marks are there in all?



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8 How many tally marks are there in all?



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9 How many tally marks are there in all? Count by 5s, then count on.



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10 How many tally marks are there in all?



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ANSWER KEY

1. 10

2. 8

3. 3

4. 3

5. 9

6. 14

7. 2

8. 5

9. 16

10. 6

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