



Counting with Sticks



The Task

Improve your Math skills using sticks collected from the local environment

How?

- Select and travel to an appropriate venue.
- Brief the pupils on safety, organisation and responsibilities.
- Gather a pile of evenly sized sticks (large pencil size).
- Use the sticks to provide an interactive, hands-on way to explore mathematics and learn mathematical concepts, such as the four basic arithmetical operations.
- Review the activities and chart progress.

Considerations

- Differentiate task levels to challenge pupils appropriately.
- Ensure pupils don't damage living plants when collecting sticks.
- Use the sticks to give maths a visual context, make it fun and build confidence.
- Use the experience to promote a wider appreciation of the local environment.

What will you need?

- Twigs (children to collect)
- Mathematic problems





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Organisation & Layout

- Work in teams to collect your sticks.
- Choose a venue with a good space and access to twigs/branches on the ground. Alternatively, get the pupils to bring in materials as a home work exercise.
- Keep groups close enough to supervise but with enough space to feel unhindered while working things out.

Learning Objectives

- Practice teamwork, cooperation and communication skills.
- Enjoy being and working outside.
- How and where to forage for good natural material.
- Practise and gain confidence in a variety of maths operations.

Safety Information

- Select a safe, easily supervised area with access to the required raw materials for the task.
- Set clear rules and boundaries for the Group.
More controls will be needed if using a public areas.
- Ensure good sight lines and have a call back system.
- Consider hygiene and sharp objects when clearing up.

Review & Assessment

- Work in teams to complete maths tasks.
- Question and answer to gauge an improvement in understanding and confidence.
- Compare attitudes to maths before and after sessions.

Additional Links & Support

[Blairvadach Counting With Sticks—YouTube](#)

[More Numeracy Games—www.earlyimpactlearning.com](http://www.earlyimpactlearning.com)

