

Part part whole model exploration activities



1 Show this part part whole model

Counters work throughout these activities; tell your own stories with your own scenarios if you prefer. Give the whole and both parts: the whole is 6, the parts are 4 and 2. Students build it with counters in the model and say it aloud.

"Say your model. What is the whole? What are the parts?"

2 Show a part part whole model

Give only the whole: 8. Students choose their own parts, build the model, and say it. Ask for a different model of the same whole, including one where a part is zero.

"Show a different model with the same whole. Can a part be zero? Show me."

3 Same whole, different parts

Collect several students' models of the same whole side by side and compare them.

"What is different about these models? What is the same? What must always be true about the parts and the whole?"

4 Non-example: parts that don't make the whole

Show a model with the whole 8 and the parts 5 and 2 already placed as numbers.

"Is this a part part whole model of 8? How can we check?"

Students build the parts with counters, find they do not make the whole, and fix a part.

"Which number could we change to make the model true?"

