

Turning part part whole worded problems into bar models activities

1 Picture the parts, find the whole

There are 3 guitars in the music room and 2 more guitars are brought in. Children build both amounts on the mat with guitar cards, then find the whole.

"Picture both amounts. Which box do they both go in — part or whole?"

"Add them together. What is the whole?"

2 Picture the whole, find the missing part

There are 8 bees in the garden altogether. 5 are on the flowers and the rest are flying. Children build the whole and the known part on the mat with bee cards, then find the missing part.

"Eight is the whole. Five is one part — what goes in the whole box, and what goes in the known part box?"

"Work out the missing part. How many bees are flying?"

3 Fix the mixed-up bar

There are 7 cats: 4 are sleeping and 3 are playing. Build a bar model on the mat with cat cards, but with the whole and a part swapped — a small number sitting in the whole box, and a bigger number in a part box. Children correct it and explain how they knew.

"Something is wrong with this bar. Can a part be bigger than the whole?"

"Swap the numbers so it makes sense. Which one is really the whole?"

4 Non-example: the whole in the wrong place

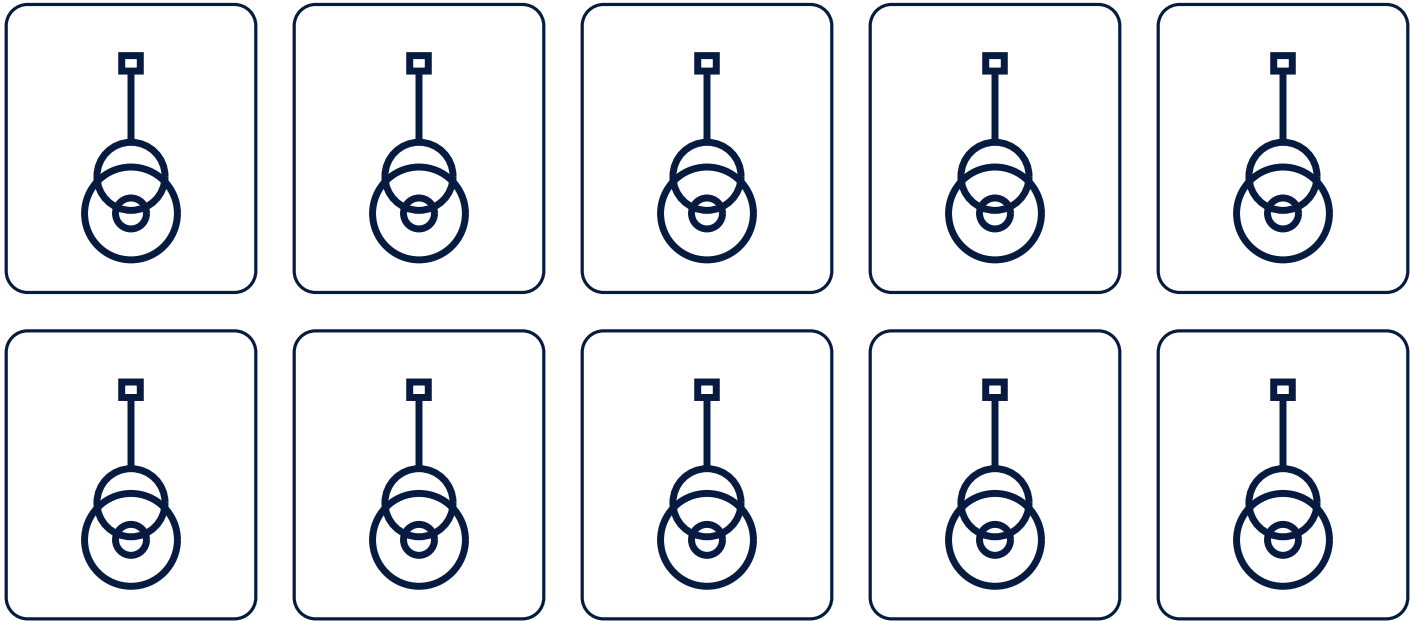
There are 10 penguins on the ice. Some waddle away, leaving 4 penguins. Someone has written 4 in the whole box and 10 in a part box.

"Four is the whole here, and ten is a part. Does that make sense?"

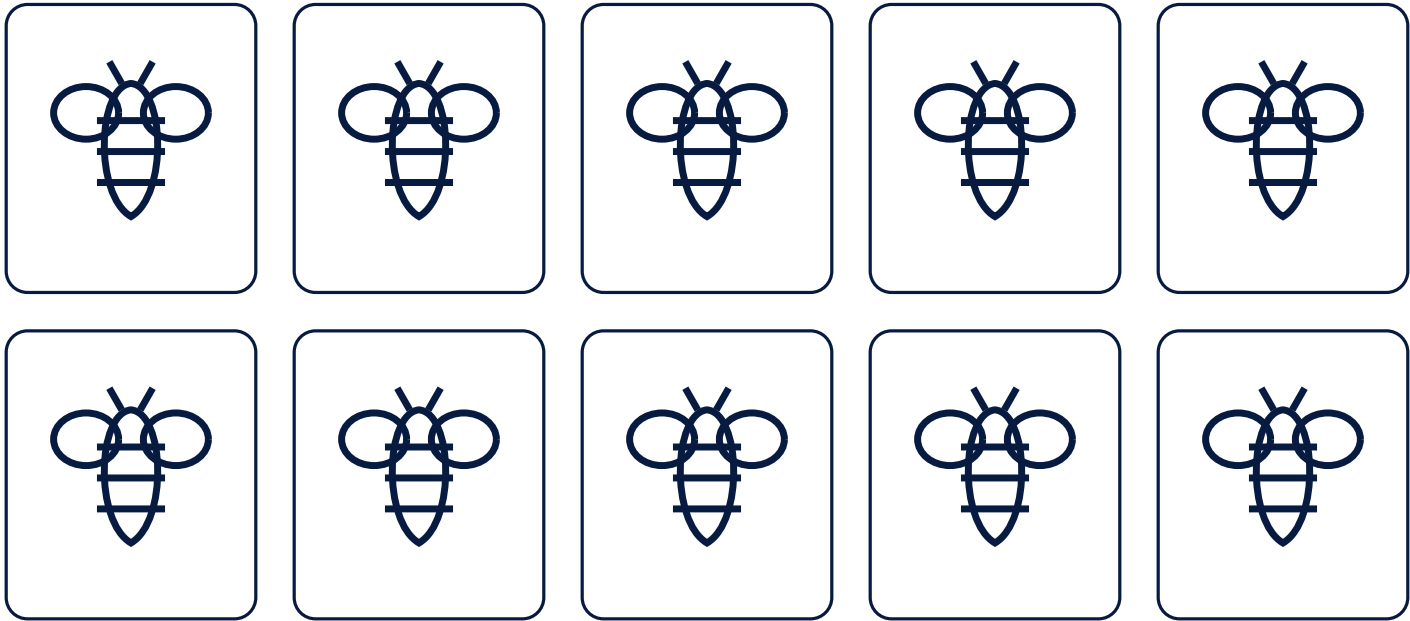
"Which number is really the whole? How do you know?"

Bar model mat

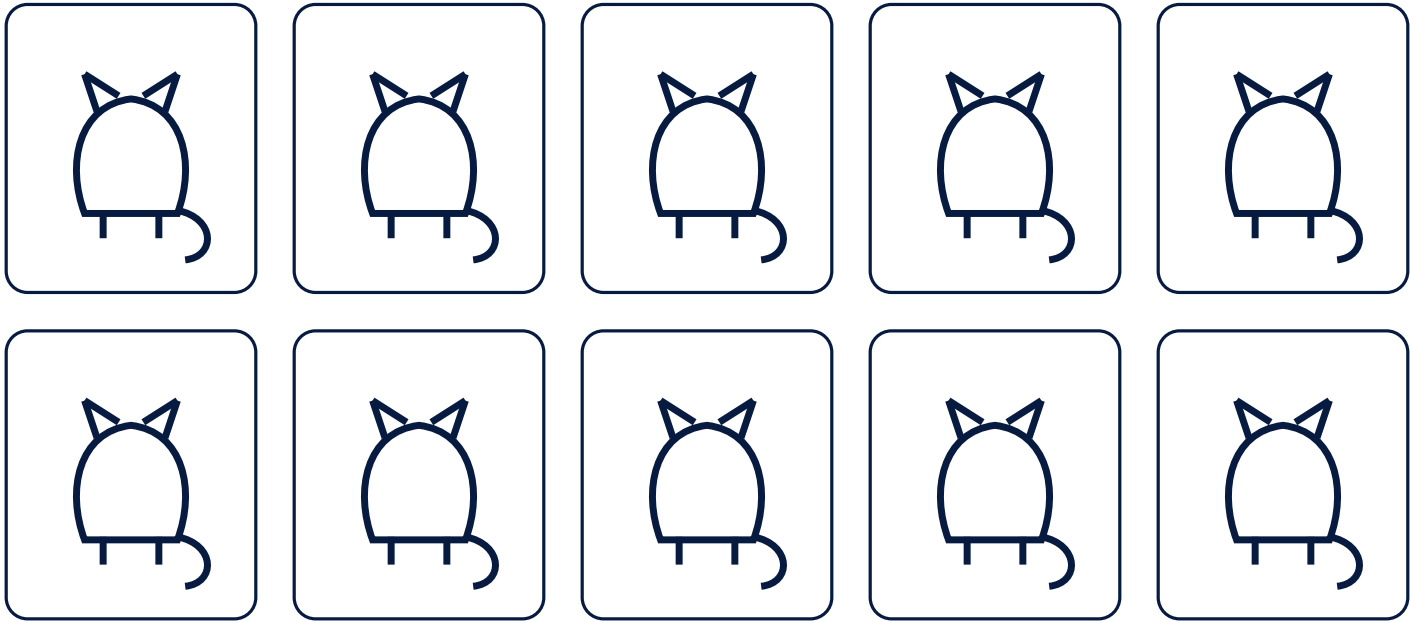
Scenario cards — Guitars



Scenario cards — Bees



Scenario cards — Cats



Scenario cards — Penguins

