

Recording with tally marks introduction



1 Start with five, then add one more

Put out five counters where everyone can see them. Ask how many. Five is a quantity students know well — pause on it and keep it in mind.

“Here are five counters. How many? Five. We know five well — hold it in your mind.”

Bring out the icy pole sticks. We can show how many using tally marks — one stick for each counter. Lay a stick beside each counter as you go.

“We can show how many with tally marks. One icy pole stick for each counter — one, two, three, four, five.”

“Five counters, five tally marks. The marks show how many.”

Add one more counter to the group. Ask how many now. Then add one more stick so the marks still match.

“Now one more counter. How many? Six. So we add one more tally mark — six marks for six.”

Keep going the same way — one more counter, one more stick — each time asking how many. Move up through seven, eight, nine, ten.

“One more counter, one more mark. How many now? Seven... eight... nine...”

Stop at ten. Line the ten counters up beside the ten tally marks so students see they match.

“Ten counters and ten tally marks. The marks show how many — ten.”

Look at the ten marks all together and ask whether the amount is easy to see at a glance.

“Can you tell how many marks there are straight away — or do you have to count them one by one?”