

Fives frame activities



1 Place the counters — fill from the left

Say a number 1 to 5. Students place that many counters in their fives frame, filling from the left. Ask about filled and empty cells after each.

“Put four counters in your frame — fill from the left. How many filled? How many empty?”

“Does four and one make five?”

2 Flash the frame — read without counting

Show a filled fives frame for one to two seconds, then cover it. Students say how many were filled. Begin with 1 and 5, then 2 and 4, then 3 (see resource).

“Ready — look. (Flash, cover.) How many were filled? Did you count, or did you see it?”

“How many empty cells were there? How did you know?”

3 What’s missing? — hidden cells

Cover some cells of a fives frame with a sticky note so students see the filled cells but not the empty ones. Ask how many are hidden.

“I can see three filled. The rest are hidden. How many are hiding?”

“How did you work that out — did you count, or did you know?”

4 Non-example: the wrong filling direction

Show a frame filled from the right, and another with counters scattered. Ask whether it shows the number, and what is wrong.

“Someone filled from the right. Is their frame showing two? What is wrong with filling from the right?”

“If everyone fills differently, can we read each other’s frames quickly? What does filling from the left give us?”

Fives frames — blank

Print on A4. Laminate for repeated use. Fill each frame from the left with counters.



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Blank fives frames — students place counters, filling from the left.

Fives frame cards — 0 to 5

Print on A4. Laminate and cut. Read each frame without counting — how many filled, how many empty.



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