

Using stories to show addition and subtraction together activities

1 Tell the join-and-leave story

Give each pair two picture cards, such as three pencils and two pencils. One partner tells the whole story out loud: the pencils join, then the same amount leaves again. Together, lay the two equation cards that match the story as it is told.

"Tell the story: some pencils join, then the same number leave again."

"Which equation card matches the joining part? Which matches the leaving part?"

2 Someone else's story — act out both parts

One partner tells a new join-and-leave story using their cards while the other uses real objects to act out both the joining and the leaving as the story is told.

"Tell your story from the start — joining, then leaving."

"Act out both parts with the objects. Does the story match what happened?"

3 Swap objects, tell the same story shape

Pairs swap to a different object's picture cards and tell a brand new story with the same join-then-leave shape, keeping the numbers the same.

"Tell the story again with new objects. What joins? What leaves?"

"Is the shape of the story still the same, even though the objects changed?"

4 Non-example: a true equation that does not match the story

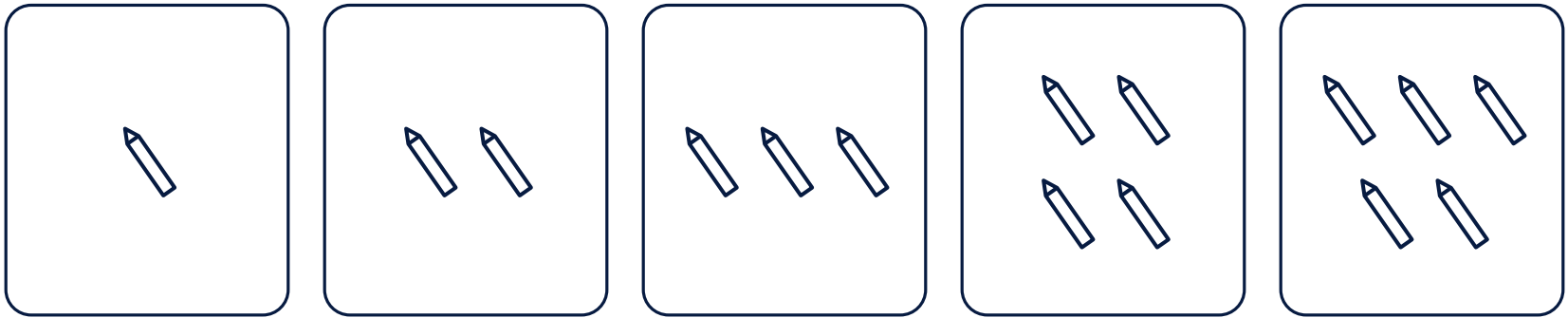
Tell the story of two pencils joining three more, then lay down the equation card $4 + 1 = 5$ to go with it. The equation is true, but it is not the story that was told.

"Listen to the story again. Does four plus one equal five match it?"

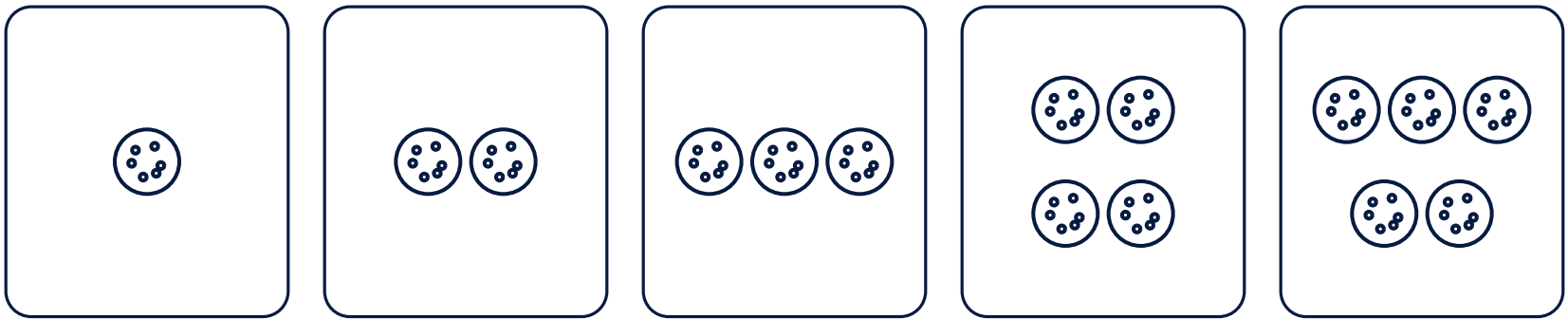
"Which equation card actually matches this story?"

Counting cards

Pencils

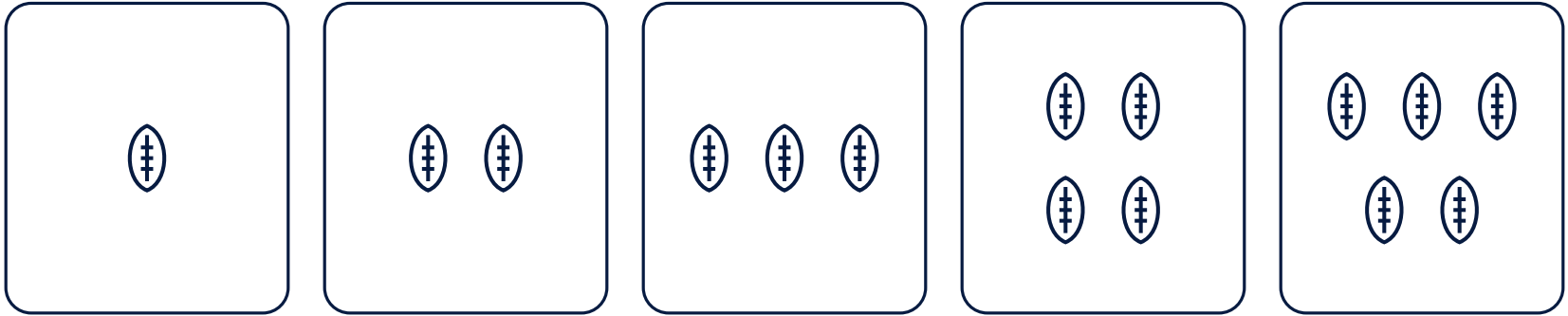


Cookies

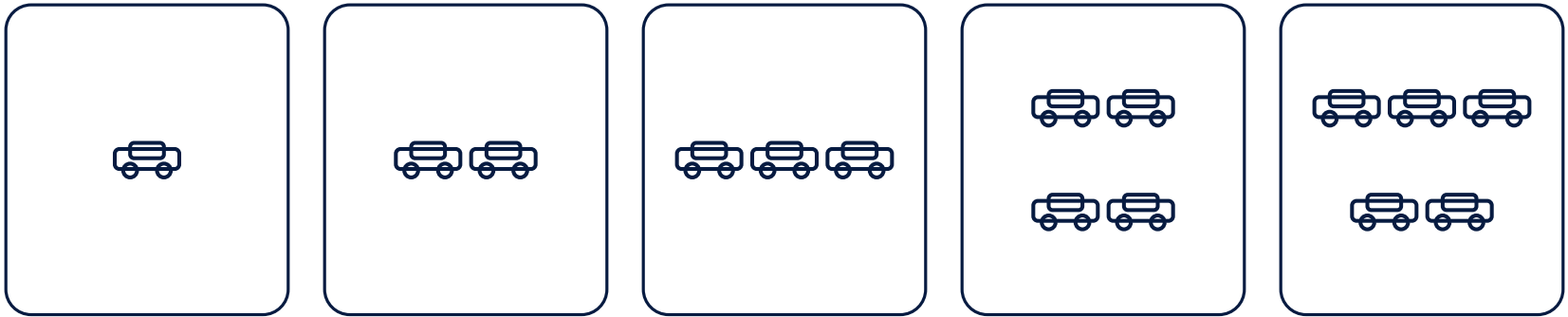


Counting cards

Footballs



Toy cars



Equation cards

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

$$2 - 1 = 1$$

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$3 - 2 = 1$$

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

$$4 - 2 = 2$$

$$3 + 2 = 5$$

$$5 - 2 = 3$$

Equation cards

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 - 3 = 2$$

$$3 + 3 = 6$$

$$6 - 3 = 3$$

$$4 + 2 = 6$$

$$6 - 2 = 4$$

$$4 + 3 = 7$$

$$7 - 3 = 4$$

Equation cards

$$5 + 2 = 7$$

$$7 - 2 = 5$$

$$4 + 4 = 8$$

$$8 - 4 = 4$$

$$5 + 4 = 9$$

$$9 - 4 = 5$$

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

$$10 - 5 = 5$$