

Using arrays for grouping activities

Use real classroom counters for these activities – they are much easier to rearrange between rows and columns than cut-out cards. The counter cards included here are a backup only.

1 Read the array by rows

Using counters, children build a 2 row by 5 column array and read the rows as equal groups.

"How many rows does this array have?"

"How many equal groups does that give you?"

2 Read the array by columns

Using the same array, children count the columns instead, finding a different equal grouping.

"How many columns does this array have?"

"How many equal groups does grouping by columns give you?"

3 Build an array from a description

Given an instruction like 'build an array with 3 columns and 2 rows', children arrange counters to match.

"How many rows and how many columns do you need?"

"Build it. Does every row match every other row?"

4 Non-example: uneven rows

Someone arranges counters meant to be an array, but one row has more counters than the others.

"Does every row have the same number as every other row?"

"Is this really an array? What would need to change?"

Counter cards (backup only – real counters are best)

