

# Fair share activities



## 1 Fair or not? — judge, then check

Lay out pairs of groups — some clearly fair (four and four), some clearly unfair (six and two). Students judge first, then count both to confirm.

*“Is this a fair share? Could you see it, or did you need to count?”*

*“Which group has more? What would you move to make it fair?”*

## 2 Close ones — count to be sure

Lay out pairs that look almost the same — four and five within ten, then larger pairs like twelve and fourteen. Students count both and say fair or not, and by how much.

*“These look the same. Count both — are they equal? By how much are they different?”*

*“With bigger groups, can you trust your eyes? When do you have to count?”*

## 3 Three groups — all must match

Put out three groups. For a fair share, every group must be equal — students check all three, not just two.

*“Three groups this time — all three must be equal. Are they?”*

*“Which group has too many? Which has too few? What would you move?”*

## 4 Non-example: close enough is not fair

With two similar-looking groups — thirteen and fifteen — glance and declare “close enough, fair” without counting. Students respond.

*“I said close enough — fair. Am I right? What did I skip?”*

*“Is ‘close enough’ ever fair? Count both — are they equal?”*