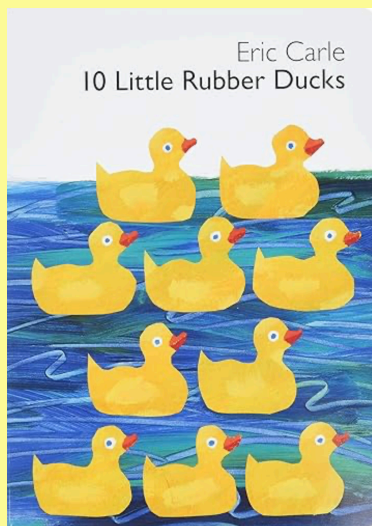


**AUTHOR:**

Eric Carle

ILLUSTRATOR:

Eric Carle

During a storm at sea, a box of ten little yellow rubber ducks fell off a cargo ship. The ten ducks drifted north, south, east, and west. The ducks have various adventures at sea. The story is based on real events!

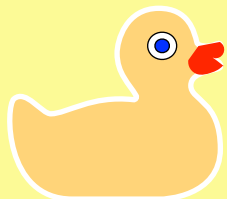
Ages: birth to 3 years

ATOS Reading Level:
2.4

Lexile: n/a

ISBN: 9780061964282

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10 Little Rubber Ducks

What will happen to each of the 10 little rubber ducks lost at sea?

Topics: counting, ordinal numbers, direction, spatial relationships

Activities To Do Together:

10 Little Rubber Ducks is a great first look at counting and directional words (up, down, left, right). These words help children give and follow directions.

Before reading the book:

- Together, look at the cover of the book. What pattern do you see in the way the ducks are arranged?
- Count the ducks on the cover. How many are there?

While reading the book:

- Count the rubber ducks on each page.
- Encourage your child to predict which duck will be on the next page using ordinal numbers: first, second, third, or...?

When you have finished reading the book:

- There are many opportunities to practice counting throughout your child's day. Count steps, hops, claps, toys, plates on the dinner table, fingers, and toes. Keep the practice fun and playful!
- In the story, the rubber ducks float. What else floats? Explore with items in the bath, sink, or pool.
- Begin to teach your child "left" and "right" by narrating what you are doing: as you put their shoes on, "I am putting on your left shoe...I am putting on your right shoe."; in the car, "We are turning left" or "We are turning right."; at the table, "Your fork is to the left of your plate, your spoon is to the right."
- Use prepositions in your everyday interactions with your child by describing the positions of objects: "The teddy bear is **on** the shelf"; "The dog is **near** the door"; or "The red block is **next to** the yellow one."
- Give directions such as: "Jump **over** the line"; "Put the car **between** the trucks"; "Brush your teeth **before** you go to bed"; or "Run **through** the sprinklers."

Conversations During Daily Routines with Infants and Toddlers:

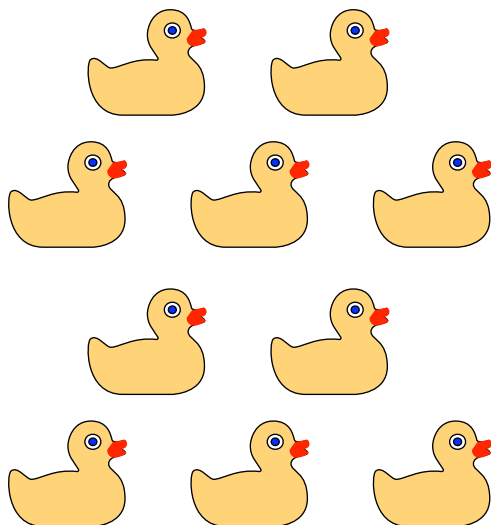
1. Bath time - Count bath toys, toes, or fingers. How many are there?
2. Play time - Make a sound pattern: "clap, clap, quack; clap, clap, quack..." Encourage your child to repeat the pattern.
3. Meal time - Count the napkins on the table together. "One, two, three. There are three napkins."
4. Bedtime - Narrate your child's bedtime routine using ordinal numbers: "first we take a bath, second we put on our pajamas, third we brush our teeth, fourth we read a story, and fifth we go to sleep."

Questions for Mathematical Thinking:

1. In the duck factory, which color is painted first? Second?
2. Which little rubber duck's adventure do you think was the most fun? The most surprising? Your favorite?
3. At the end of the story, how many ducklings does the mother duck have? Count and find out!

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit [10 Little Rubber Ducks](http://countplayexplore.org/book/10-little-rubber-ducks) (countplayexplore.org/book/10-little-rubber-ducks) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations and/or Mathematics Standards provided by the California Department of Education for this book.



Vocabulary

Math words found in the story: big, eighth (8th), faraway, fifth (5th), first (1st), fourth (4th), little, ninth (9th), second (2nd), seventh (7th), sixth (6th), ten, tenth (10th), third (3rd), wide

Related math words: ordinal numbers, prepositions, spatial relationships

Words to build reading

comprehension: blinks, bob, captain, cargo ship, chatters, churns, dolphin, drift, ducklings, flamingo, glides, octopus, overboard, pelican, polar bear, quack, screeches, seagull, seal, turtle, whale

Spanish Title:

Diez patitos de goma

ISBN: 9788488342805

Copyright: 2006

Also available in Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean

Related Books: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle; *Lyle Walks the Dogs* by Bernard Waber

Click this link to the [World Catalog](http://WorldCatalog) or enter bit.ly/3GVEACz to find *10 Little Rubber Ducks* in the public library.

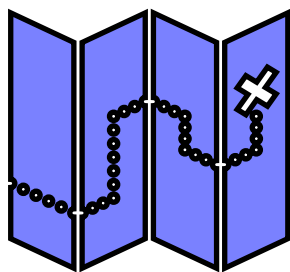
Math Connections: During a storm, a box of rubber ducks falls into the sea, landing ten ducks in the water. As the ducks drift apart, they each meet a different sea creature. Using ordinal numbers, directional words, and spatial relationships, the author describes each of the interactions: “The *first* duck drifts *west*. A dolphin jumps *over* it.”

Ordinal numbers describe the order of things: first, second, third, and so on. These numbers can also be written with symbols: 1st, 2nd, 3rd. The directional words the author uses (west, east, north, south, left, right, up, and down) describe the direction something is heading. The spatial relationship words he uses (over, by, past, at, to, on) are also called prepositions. They tell where in space one object is in relation to another. Each of these types of words is important to a child's understanding of math (and other subjects: science, computer coding, and English, for example).

Ordinal numbers can be used to describe patterns: “First she put a blue bead on the string, second a red bead, and third a green bead.” Encourage your child to describe a well-known routine using ordinal numbers. Examples might be their bedtime routine, their bath routine, or their getting-ready-in-the-morning routine.

Directional and spatial relationship words are often found in math. Fractions can be read as one number *over* another; exponents are raised *up* and to the *right* of the number; when multiplying or dividing decimals by 10, we move the decimal point *over* to the *right* or *left*. In the long division algorithm, we bring *down* numbers as we divide. In algebra, the coefficient is the number *in front* of the variable.

Ordinal numbers and spatial relationships are also very important when we are giving directions or explaining how to do something. For example, giving directions to Mr. Brown's house: *"Starting from the school, first, go right on Maple Avenue; second, turn left on Oak Street; third, turn left on Birch Avenue. Mr. Brown's house is the fifth house from the corner, on the right."*



DISCOVERING THE MATH: BOOK GUIDE

Children learn these words, in part, just by hearing them used appropriately in everyday interactions. When reading a story to your child, look for prepositions and point out their use in the illustrations. For example, in *10 Little Rubber Ducks*, on the page with the dolphin jumping over the duck, point out the dolphin *over* the duck as you read the words.

There are also several fun, classic children's songs which use prepositions. Examples include "The Farmer in the Dell" which uses "in" and "on," "Hickory Dickory Dock" which features "up" and "down"; and "Hokey Pokey" uses "in" and "out" and "right" and "left."

