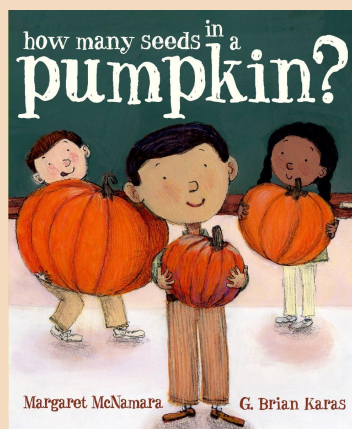


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Mr. Tiffin brings three pumpkins to class. Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s, his class finds out how many seeds are in each pumpkin.

Ages: 5 to 9 years

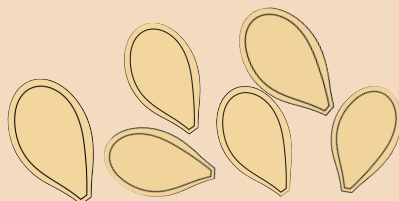
ATOS Reading Level:

3.2

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How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

Who will have the most seeds in their pumpkin?

Topics: counting by 2s, 5s, & 10s, following directions, sequence, size, estimating, comparisons

Activities To Do Together:

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin? provides a fun way for children to practice important math skills like estimating quantities and counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Estimating helps children develop critical thinking by making educated guesses in real-life situations. Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s introduces skip counting, which builds a foundation for understanding multiplication and division.

Before reading the book:

- Talk with your child about estimation and why it is helpful. Estimate how many cars are in a parking lot or the number of nails in a jar.
- Practicing counting with your child by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

While reading the book:

- Ask your child to predict which pumpkin they think will have the most seeds. Why do they think that?
- Stop on the pages where the seeds are all laid out. Ask your child to practice counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Ask which way they like counting the best and why.

When you have finished reading the book:

- Talk with your child about other strategies the children could have used to count the pumpkin seeds.
- Gather a group of objects and count by 2s, 5s, or 10s. How could you organize the objects to make counting easier?
- Buy a pumpkin or another squash that has seeds. Estimate how many seeds you think it will have. Cut it open and count by 2s, 5s, or 10s to see if your estimate was close. Bonus activity: look up a recipe to roast the seeds to continue the fun.

Questions for Mathematical Thinking:

1. Compare counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Which way is easiest? Which way is hardest? Which way is fastest? Why?
2. Mr. Tiffin's class lined up from tallest to smallest or smallest to tallest. How else could they have lined up?
3. How many students are there? Can you count them by 2s, 5s, and 10s?
4. Why do you think there were different numbers of seeds in each pumpkin?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit [How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?](http://countplayexplore.org/book/how-many-seeds-in-a-pumpkin/) (countplayexplore.org/book/how-many-seeds-in-a-pumpkin) 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: all, biggest, circle, counting, eight, even, fifteen, five, fives, forty, four, groups, guesses, hundred, lines, lining, many, more, most, numbers, odd, one, one million, over, pairs, rows, size, six, smallest, tallest, tens, thirty, three, time, twelve, twenty, twenty-five, twenty-two, twos, whole

Related math words: estimating

Words to build**reading**

comprehension: chilly, leading, peered, pulp, scooping, smocks

Related Books: *Betcha!* by Stuart J. Murphy

Click this link to the [World Catalog](http://WorldCatalog) or enter bit.ly/4gTsMNG to find *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* in the public library.



Math Connections: *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?*

provides a fun and engaging way for children to practice important math skills like estimating and counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Estimation is a valuable skill that involves making an educated guess about a quantity or number that's close to the actual total. It helps children develop number sense, a deeper understanding of math concepts, and the ability to make quick judgments in everyday situations.

Before reading, spend a few minutes practicing counting with your child by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Start with smaller numbers and gradually work your way up. Ask, "How high can you count by 2s?" or "Let's try counting by 5s all the way to 100!" If your child gets stuck, provide encouragement and gentle guidance to help them reach 100. This practice not only boosts their confidence but also prepares them for the counting strategies they'll see in the story.

As you read the book together, pause to engage your child in estimating and problem-solving. For example, before the children in the story share their estimates, ask your child, "How many seeds do you think are in the small pumpkin? What about the medium or large one?" Encourage them to explain their reasoning. After turning the page, compare their estimates with those of the students in the book. Were they close? Discuss what might make one pumpkin have more seeds than another—size, shape, or something else.

When you reach the part where Mr. Tiffin asks his students how they should count the seeds, pause again and ask your child to brainstorm different ways they might organize the seeds to count them. Is it faster or easier to count them one by one, or could grouping them by 2s, 5s, or 10s save time? On the next page, challenge your child to choose the method they think would work best for counting the seeds and explain why.

After reading the book, take some time to talk with your child about what estimation means and why it's useful. For example, estimating the cost of your groceries as you shop could help you stay within your grocery budget. You can also encourage your child to think of things around the house or outdoors that can be estimated, such as how many leaves are on a tree branch, how many blocks will fill a container, or how many steps it takes to walk across the room.

Have fun with estimation. Grab some everyday items, like a jar of coins or a bowl of small toys, and estimate how many objects you have before you count them out loud.