

1st Grade Math: Finding the Number of Groups

Objective: Students will learn how to determine the number of groups when objects are shared equally, introducing the basic concept of division.

Introduction

Today, we are going to learn about **finding the number of groups**. Sometimes, we know how many objects we have and how many objects should go in each group, but we need to figure out how many groups we can make.

What is Finding the Number of Groups?

Finding the number of groups means dividing a certain number of objects into smaller, equal groups and figuring out how many groups you have. This is like sharing, but instead of knowing how many groups we want, we know how many objects go in each group, and we figure out how many groups there are.

Example: Finding Groups with Toy Cars

Let's say you have **12 toy cars**, and you want to put **4 cars** in each group.

- You will keep putting 4 cars in each group until you run out of cars.
- If you keep doing this, you will end up with **3 groups** because **12 cars ÷ 4 cars per group = 3 groups**.

Steps for Finding the Number of Groups

1. **Count the total number of objects** you have.
2. **Decide how many objects should be in each group.**
3. **Start putting that number of objects in each group** until you run out of objects.
4. **Count how many groups you made.**

Example Problem

You have **15 apples**, and you want to put **5 apples** in each basket. How many baskets will you need?

- Start with 15 apples.
- Put 5 apples in the first basket, 5 in the second basket, and 5 in the third basket.
- You will have **3 baskets** because **15 apples ÷ 5 apples per basket = 3 baskets**.

Hands-On Activity: Grouping Objects

Give students small objects like buttons, blocks, or counters and have them practice finding the number of groups:

1. **Step 1:** Start with a set number of objects, such as 18 counters.
2. **Step 2:** Tell the students to make groups of 3 objects each.
3. **Step 3:** Ask the students to count how many groups they made.

Ask them, "If we have 18 blocks and we put 3 blocks in each group, how many groups will we have?"

Practice Problems

1. You have **20 candies** and want to put **5 candies in each group**.
How many groups can you make?
2. You have **24 marbles** and you are placing **6 marbles in each group**.
How many groups will you have?
3. You have **16 cookies** and want to put **4 cookies in each group**.
How many groups can you make?

Real-Life Example

Ask students to think of situations where they need to make groups. For example:

- "If you have 10 pencils and want to put 2 pencils in each pencil case, how many pencil cases will you need?"

Conclusion

Finding the number of groups helps us organize things equally. It teaches us how to divide objects into smaller groups, which is an important part of learning division.