

Bridges in Mathematics Kindergarten Unit 8

Computing & Measuring with Frogs & Bugs

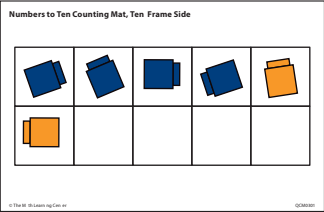
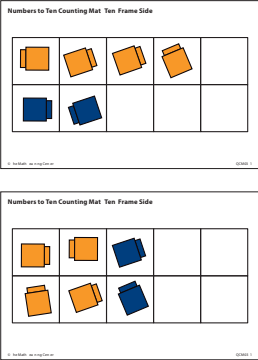
In this unit your child will:

- Count by 10s and 1s
- Read, write, order, and compare numerals to 20
- Estimate, measure, and compare length
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems within 10



Your child will learn and practice these skills by solving problems like those shown below. Keep this sheet for reference when you're helping with homework.

PROBLEM	COMMENTS
<p>Choose a card to show how many bugs you caught. Build the number with cubes. Write the equation. Circle the equation that shows the greater amount.</p> <p><i>"I caught 13 bugs. You caught 10 and 8 ... so 18. You caught more bugs."</i></p>	<p>Frogs are the focus of many engaging games and activities in Unit 8 that serve to strengthen the math skills learned during the year. In this game, Count & Compare Bugs, partners take turns drawing Double Ten-Frame Dot Cards to find out how many bugs they get. They build the amounts with cubes and determine who has the greater amount.</p> <p>Then players record their totals as "10 and some more" equations on their record sheets, and they circle the equation that is greater.</p>
<p>How many sticks do you think you can jump? How many did you jump?</p> <p><i>"I was so close! I thought I would jump 6 sticks. I jumped 5 and 1/2 sticks. I was just a half stick away!"</i></p>	<p>Students perform "frog jumps" as the class estimates and then measures the length of the jump in craft sticks. Both the length of the estimate and actual jump is recorded and compared. Students circle to show the actual jump is more, less, or the same as their estimate.</p>

PROBLEM	COMMENTS
<p>Show $4 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$ with cubes on your ten-frame mat.</p>  <p><i>"I put 4 blue cubes and 2 yellow cubes and got 6 cubes. It's not the same as yours, but we both got a total of 6."</i></p>	<p>The ten-frame model shown here is used to practice adding and subtracting combinations to 5 and 10.</p> <p>Students are given an equation and asked to represent it with objects. Students develop flexible thinking as they consider different ways to represent the same equation:</p> <p>For example, here are three ways students might show $4 + 2$:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One student might put 4 cubes in the top row and 2 in the bottom row and get 6. ■ Another student might show 4 on one side and 2 more cubes next to them to show 6. ■ A third way, with 5 on top and 1 below, is shown to the left. 

Please note: The final Home Connection sent home this year provides an opportunity to talk with your child about what he or she learned and enjoyed most during kindergarten math time. We appreciate your participation in this questionnaire.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNIT 8

Q: What can I do over the summer break to keep my child's math skills sharp?

A: The summer months are a perfect time to enhance your child's math skills with everyday fun and games. By the end of kindergarten, children should be counting to 100 by 1s and 10s, reading and writing numbers to 20, counting groups of objects to 20 or more, and using pictures and objects to solve simple addition and subtraction problems within 5 and 10. Activities that focus on these skills are great choices.

Whether on vacation, at the grocery store, or in the house or backyard, count and compare the things you see and use: rocks, flowers, seashells, silverware, dishes, toys, etc. Ask more or less questions such as, "Are there more smooth rocks or bumpy rocks? Red flowers or yellow flowers? How do you know?" Blowing bubbles is always fun. Try counting as many as you can before they pop. At the grocery store, ask your child to count the items you want to buy, like 6 apples or 10 cans of juice. While driving or waiting in lines, practice counting forward and backward, starting and stopping on different numbers. When you're on a walk or in the car, read house numbers, license plate numbers, and numbers on signs. Sidewalk chalk is a great way to practice writing numbers. Consider drawing a hopscotch board and taking turns jumping and calling out the numbers. Use snack foods or small toys to solve simple addition and subtraction problems. Ask questions like "How many do we have in all? How many more are needed to make 5? To make 10? How many would we have if I took away 2? How did you figure that out?" Let your child ask you some math questions as well.

Shapes are everywhere. Talk with your child about the shapes you see from the buildings in your neighborhood to the shapes of boxes and cans at the grocery store. A warm day outside playing with water and measuring cups offers a fun setting for learning about capacity units and weight. Plant something together; then measure and record its growth over time. Visit the library and find books about counting, measuring, shapes, and other math topics. Read these books together. Most important, have fun using math with your child!