

Making Groups of

Activity

Students need access to a pile of Unifix cubes* or counters, roughly 10 or 20 cubes (depending on the numbers that students are familiar with).

1. **Place a handful of Unifix cubes on the floor or on students' desks in front of each child.**
2. **Ask students to count out an even number of cubes, such as 12 in four groups of 3.**

Have that student place them directly in front of him or her:

3. **As**

Students
after you

4. **Re**

Have stu

5. **Us**

t?"

ts repeat

mount.

Incorporate everyday language and phrases such as "sets of", "rows of" or similar. This should help students to grasp the idea of grouping as the basic idea of multiplication.

6. **Use different materials to show the groups.**

Use counters, sticks and other materials to represent groups.

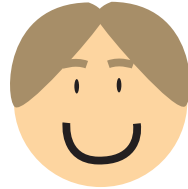
7. **Mix grouping stories with addition and subtraction stories so students can identify the difference between the different operations.**

Give students stories to solve such as "There are 4 children at a party, each person has 3 cupcakes. How many cupcakes is that?"

8. **Have students make up their own stories to go with an arrangement of counters.**

Mix up the counters arrangements so that some show subtraction or addition. Students need to know that the different operations represent vastly different situations.

Teacher Instructions: Have students cut out and glue the objects to make groups of a certain number. Have students circle them or place them in rows to show the groups.



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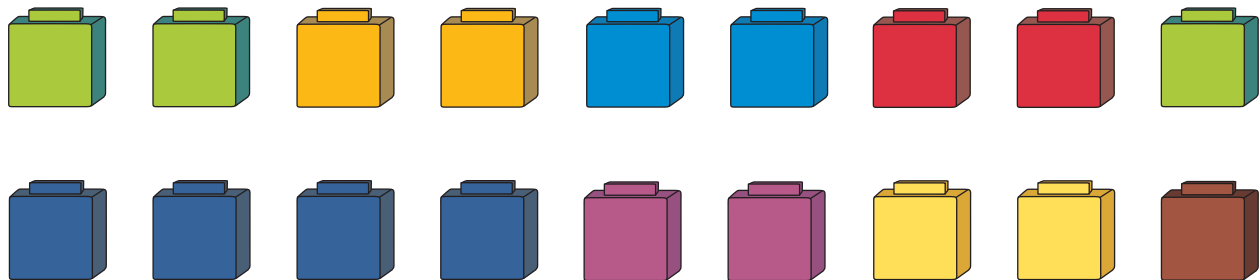
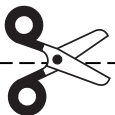
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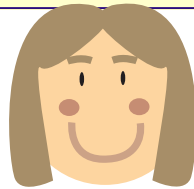


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Show 5 groups of 2. How many cubes? _____



Teacher Instructions: Have students cut out and glue the objects to make groups of a certain number. Have students circle them or place them in rows to show the groups.



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Show 3 groups of 5. How many marbles? _____

