A SPARKATLAS PACK FOR LITTLE EXPLORERS

Nature Numbers 1 to 5

Count pebbles, fill nests and hop a stone path. Numbers are more fun outside.



INSIDE THIS PACK

02 Grown-up guide: one minute to read
03 Count the treasures, 1 to 5
04 Pebble match: numbers and dots
05 Pebble path: hop from 1 to 5
06 Number nests to fill with real finds
07 Number hunt on your walk

YOU'LL NEED

10 to 15 pebbles, acorns or buttons
a crayon or pencil
a bag or pocket for finds

TIME

About 10 minutes a page

Our counting walk

Date _____ Where we went _____

Today's weather · Circle one ◯ sunny ◯ cloudy ◯ rainy ◯ windy

AGES 🌱 Sprout 2–3 🌿 Seedling 3–5 🌳 Sapling 5–7 Each activity page shows its band.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Little children learn numbers with their hands: touching, moving and lining things up. These pages turn a pocket of pebbles into counting, matching and first adding, with lots of talk along the way.

Before You Start Counting

A one-minute read for grown-ups.

How to use it (about 10 minutes a page)

1. **Gather a pocketful.**
   Collect 10 to 15 pebbles, acorns or leaves on a walk, or use buttons.
2. **Count with your hands.**
   Touch or move each thing as you say its number.
3. **Count it again.**
   Count the same group twice. Is it still the same?
4. **Stop while it's fun.**
   One page is plenty. Come back another day.

Three ways to play

Sprout 2–3

Count to 3 together, point and name, and fill the first nests.

Seedling 3–5

Count to 5, match numbers to dots and hop the pebble path.

Sapling 5–7

Write the numbers, hop forward and back, and find pairs that make 5.

Little safety notes

Small pebbles, acorns and buttons can be a choking risk. Stay close with under-3s and keep finds out of mouths. Look, don't pick: count petals on living flowers. Wash hands after the walk.

Printing tips

Page 1 is the cover. To save ink, print pages 2 to 7 only. Every page works in black and white, on Letter or A4.

Wonder out loud together

- How many pebbles can you hold in one hand?
- Are there more leaves or more sticks here?
- If a squirrel took one acorn, how many would be left?
- What do you think the biggest number is?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Counting out loud isn't the same as knowing how many. If your child says "1, 2, 3, 5", smile and count again together. Mistakes are part of how number sense grows.

Count the Treasures

Count each row, then circle the right number.

Touch each picture once as you count it.

leaves  1 2 3 4 5

pinecones  1 2 3 4 5

stones  1 2 3 4 5

feathers  1 2 3 4 5

flowers  1 2 3 4 5

Your turn

Line up real finds here, or draw them. Write how many.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Saying one number for each touch is the big skill here. The last number you say tells you how many there are.

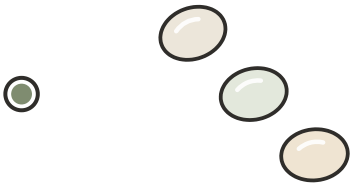
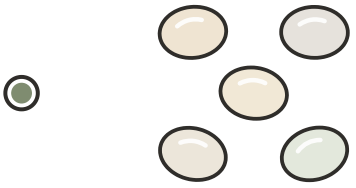
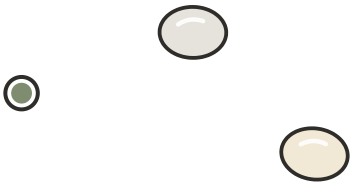
PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Count the rows of 1, 2 and 3 together, touching each picture.
Stretch: Which row has one more than the leaves? Which has one fewer?

Pebble Match

Every number has a pebble twin.

Draw a line from each number to the pebbles that match.

1	one	
2	two	
3	three	
4	four	
5	five	

Your turn

Pick a number. Draw that many pebbles, then write the number in the circle.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Small groups set out like dice dots can be seen at a glance, without counting one by one. This quick seeing is a big part of number sense.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

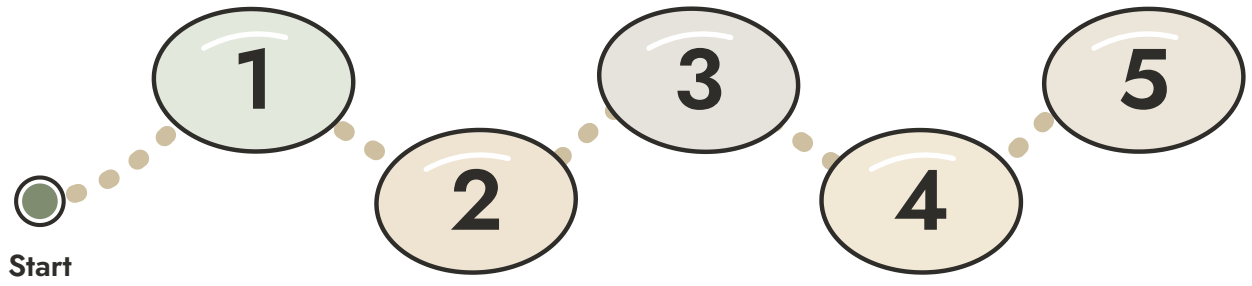
Easier: Put a real pebble on each pebble in a group and count them together.

Stretch: Cover one group with your hand. Can you say how many without peeking?

Pebble Path

Hop along the stones from 1 to 5.

Use a real pebble, a button or your finger as the hopper.



1. **Start at the dot. Hop 2 stones. Where did you land?**

2. **Hop from 1 to 4. How many hops did it take?**

3. **Stand on 5 and hop back 2. Where are you now?**

4. **Make up a hop for your grown-up to try.**

Make it big outside

Chalk five stones on the ground, or lay five sticks in a row. Jump from one to the next and say each number out loud.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Numbers in order on a path are a first number line. Hopping forward and back is adding and taking away, long before any sums are written.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Hop one stone at a time and say each number.

Stretch: Hop by 2s from the start. Which stones do you land on?

Number Nests

Fill each nest with the right number of treasures.

Put real finds in each nest: pebbles, acorns, leaves or buttons.

One find for each dot. When the dots are full, the nest is full.

1 ○

2 ○○

3 ○○○

4 ○○○○

5 ○○○○○

Mystery nest

Put in as many as you like. Can your grown-up guess how many?

✦ Lift and guess

Hold the finds from two nests, one handful in each hand. Which feels heavier? Is the nest with more things always the heaviest? Test it!

FOR GROWN-UPS

Matching one find to one dot is how counting starts to make sense: every thing gets one number, and none get skipped.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Fill nests 1, 2 and 3 only, and count them together.

Stretch: Which two nests together make 5? Push the finds together and count.

Number Hunt

Numbers are hiding all over the park.

Tick each number you find, then draw it in the box.

1 1 big tree you can hug ☐

2 2 of a pair: wings, legs or eyes ☐

3 3 stones you can stack ☐

4 4 legs on an animal (watch from afar) ☐

5 5 petals on one flower ☐

What did you find lots of? Draw it and write how many. ◯

✦ Look closely

Many flowers have five petals, like wild roses, apple blossoms and buttercups. Count the petals on the next flower you see, without picking it.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Finding numbers in real things shows that numbers describe the world, not just the page. Talk about what you count as you go.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Hunt for 1, 2 and 3 only, and point instead of drawing.

Stretch: Find something with more than 5. How high can you count it?