Counting Adventures:

Backwards and By Steps

by

Richard Boateng, Sheena Lovia Boateng,
Joseph Budu, John Serbe-Marfo,
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OLPPE

TECHNOLOGY FOR A GREAT START

Counting Adventures: Backwards and By Steps

Open Learning Platform for Primary Education

Counting Adventures: Backwards and By Steps

Counting Adventures: Backwards and By Steps is an engaging and educational book designed for children in grades 1 to 3. The book introduces young readers to the concepts of counting backwards and skip counting in an entertaining and interactive way. It draws on relatable themes from African culture to teach young learners in African educational institutions how to count backwards and by steps for two and three-digit numbers by tens, fives, twos and ones.

Young learners are not only taught counting skills but are also encouraged to participate in the story through interactive questions and activities. The book is filled with bright, engaging illustrations and simple, rhythmic text that makes learning to count both enjoyable and memorable. It's an ideal resource for parents and teachers looking to build foundational math skills in young learners.

This book is one of the works of the Open Learning Platform for Primary Education (www.olppe.org) project funded by CERES and the Jacobs Foundation.

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Open Learning Platform for Primary Education

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What is OLPPE?

Leading institutions from Ghana, including the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, have joined forces. Their goal? To enhance the role and impact of technology within primary education.

Introducing the **Open Learning Platform for Primary Education (OLPPE):** a project dedicated to creating and implementing open e-content, while also establishing methods for seamless curriculum integration. This is all with the aim of elevating learning experiences for primary school students. For the pilot phase, the focus is on one of the cornerstone subjects of education — mathematics, specifically within lower primary education in Ghana.

We're proud to be backed by Connecting the E-Tech Research Eco-System (CERES) and the Jacobs Foundation.

JACOBS FOUNDATION
Our Promise to Youth

ceres
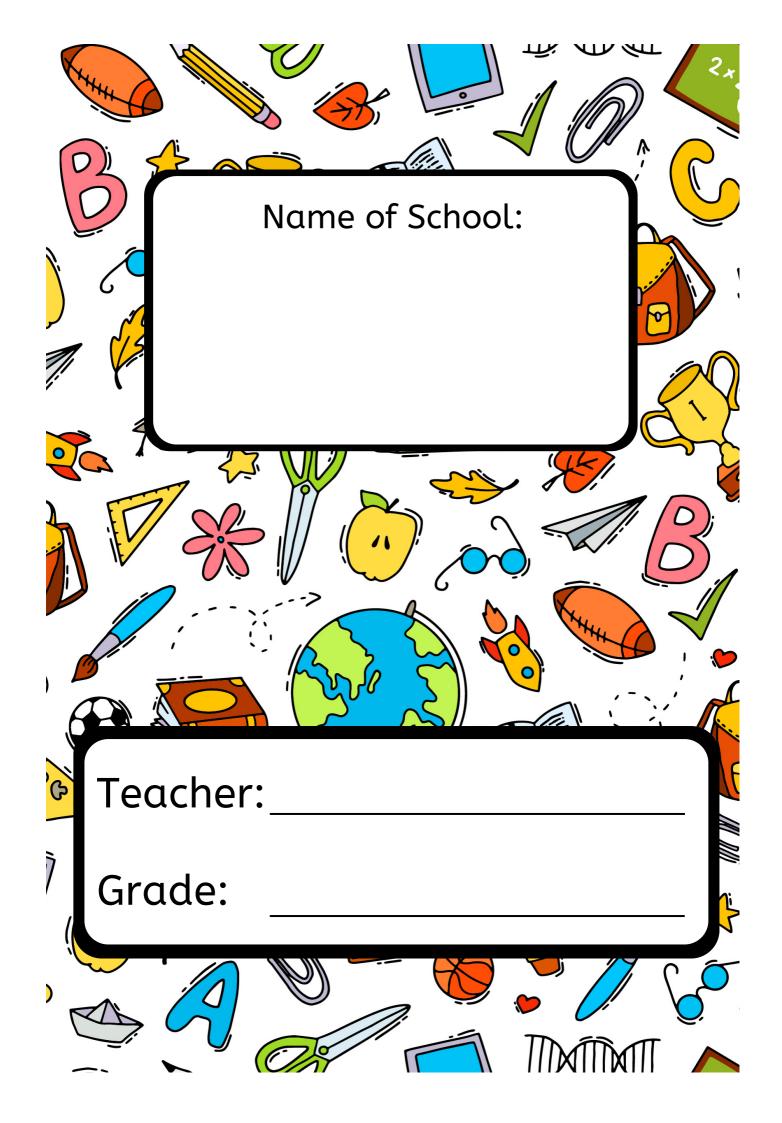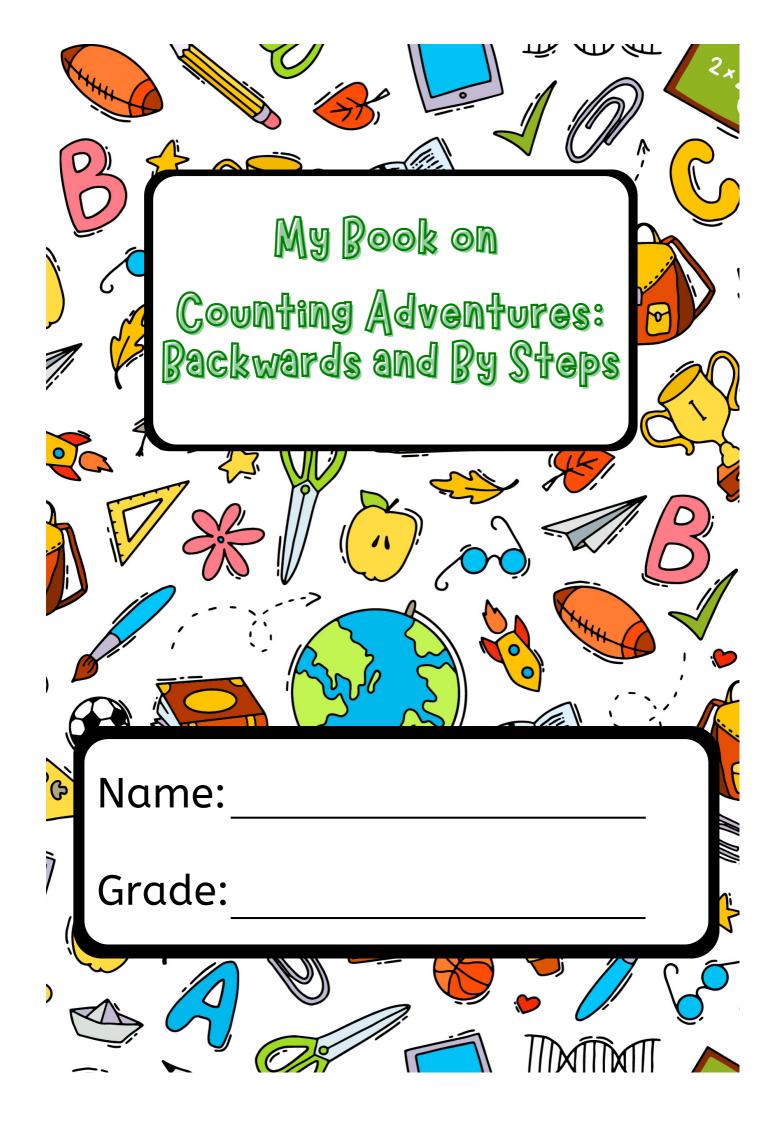Connecting the Ed•tech Research Eco•System

Who are We?

Steering this initiative is a team comprising four senior researchers — Prof. Richard Boateng, Dr Sheena Lovia Boateng, Dr Joseph Budu and Dr John Serbe-Marfo — and two distinguished CERES scholars — Obed Kwame Adzaku Penu and Pasty Asamoah.

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Name of School:

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

My Book on

Counting Adventures: Backwards and By Steps

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Counting Backwards in '1s'

Name _____   Date _____

Nana's Magical Beads

In the bustling market of Accra, there was an elderly woman named Nana Afi who sold magical beads. Each bead had a unique power, and she had exactly **60** of them.

One day, she met a little girl named Aisha who was very curious. To teach Aisha patience and counting, Nana decided to share the story of each bead, one by one, while removing them from the strand.

Starting with the **60th** bead, Nana began her story. "This bead," she began, "helps one find lost things." After the story, she removed it, leaving **59** beads.

She continued, "This **59th** bead grants sweet dreams." And so, she moved bead by bead, telling Aisha about the bead that brings laughter, the one that calms storms, and the one that whispers tales of old.

As Nana reached the **41st** bead, Aisha exclaimed, "We now have **40** magical beads left!" Both of them laughed and continued, with Aisha eagerly counting every single bead.
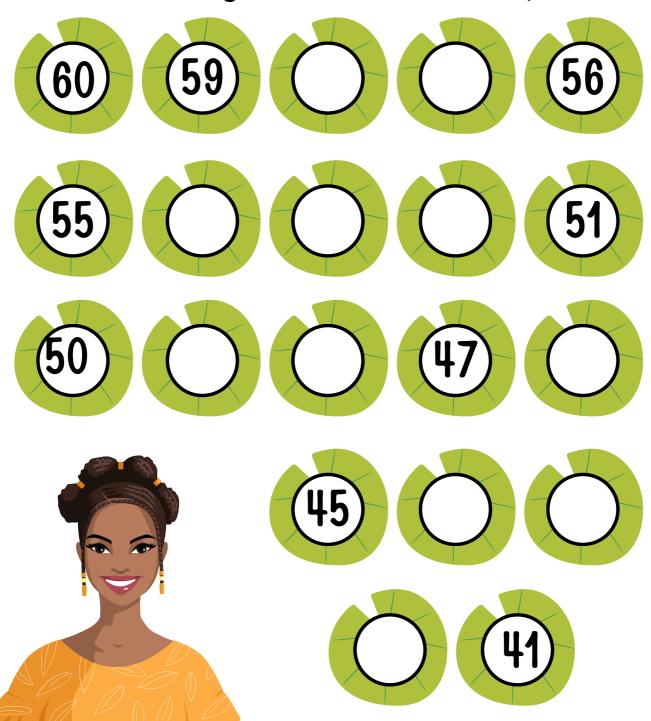
Now let's help Nana count her beads

Counting Backwards in '1s'

Name _____   Date _____

Nana's Magical Beads

Fill in the missing bead number in the sequence.

60   59   ( )   ( )   56

55   ( )   ( )   ( )   51

50   ( )   ( )   47   ( )

45   ( )   ( )

( )   41

Name _____   Date _____

Kweku's Beachside Kites

Kweku was a young boy with a passion for kites. On a special occasion, his parents presented him with **50** vibrant kites, each showcasing a distinct pattern. Bursting with enthusiasm, Kweku decided to make each of the kites dance in the coastal winds, one by one.

Joining in the fun was his close friend, Mawuli. Together, they pledged to count down each kite as it took to the sky. Releasing the first kite, Kweku exclaimed, "That's kite number **50** setting sail!"

Following suit, Mawuli unfurled a kite decorated with a dazzling sun motif, declaring, "And that's the **49**th one soaring!"

Together, they carried on, letting each kite represent its unique number, "**48**, **47**, **46**..." Amidst their shared joy, gusty winds, and the myriad of kites painting the sky, the two reveled in their shared moment.

As the kite marked **41** fluttered in the air, Mawuli, eyes gleaming with excitement, pronounced, "Get ready, Kweku, for **40** more flights of fancy above the waves!"
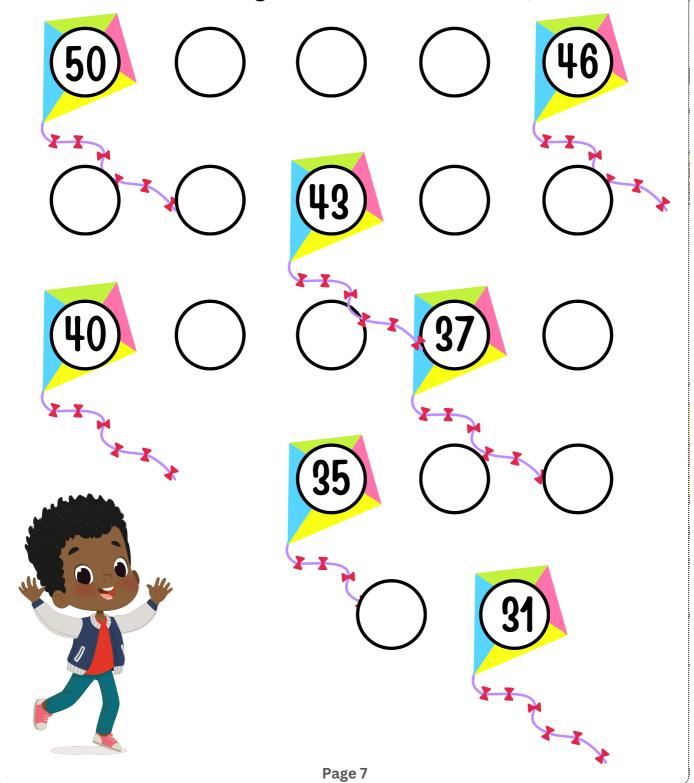
Now let's help Kweku count his Kites

Counting Backwards in '1s'

Name _____ Date _____

Kweku's Beachside Kites

Fill in the missing kite number in the sequence.

50 ◯ ◯ ◯ 46

◯ ◯ 43 ◯ ◯

40 ◯ ◯ 37 ◯

35 ◯ ◯

◯ 31

Counting Backwards in '5s'

Name _____ Date _____

Count and write the next four numbers in order from the given number:

80				

55				

30				

5				

Counting Backwards in '10s'

Name _____ Date _____

Ayo's Harvest Festival

Ayo was a young farmer who had grown **100** golden maize plants for the upcoming harvest festival. Every day leading up to the festival, he would gift some maize to the village elders as a sign of respect.

On the first day, he gifted **10** maize plants to Elder Kwame. "How many do I have left?" wondered Ayo.

"You now have **90** golden maize plants," said his sister Efia.
The next day, Ayo gifted 10 more maize plants to Elder Afia. Efia helped him count again, "Now, you have **80**."

Each day, as he gifted maize, Ayo and Efia counted backwards together, "**70**, **60**, **50**..." until they had **10** maize plants left for the festival.

The villagers praised Ayo's generosity and his ability to count, making the festival a memorable one for him.

Now let's help Ayo and Efi count the maize plants

Counting Backwards in '10s'
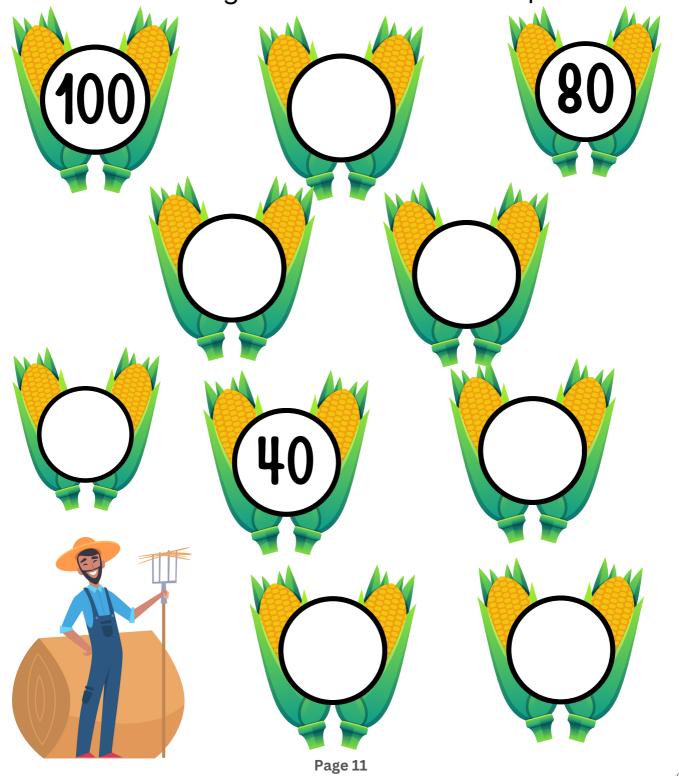
Name _____   Date _____

Ayo's Harvest Festival

Fill in the missing maize number in the sequence.

100

( )

80

( )

( )

( )

40

( )

( )

( )

Counting Backwards in '10s'

Name _____ Date _____

The Lost Drums of Ananse

In the heart of Ghana, the trickster spider Ananse had a collection of **100** drums. He played them during festivals to make everyone dance.

However, Ananse was a little mischievous. Each day, he would hide some drums just to see if the village children could find them.

On the first day, he hid **10** drums. The children gathered and counted. "Ananse has 90 drums left!" said Kofi, one of the children. The next day, Ananse hid 10 more. Akua, Kofi's friend, said, "Now there are 80 drums."

Each day, as **10** drums were hidden, the children would count backwards, "**70**, **60**, **50**..." until they were left with **10** drums.

Finally, Ananse laughed and revealed all the hidden drums, praising the children for their counting skills.

Now let's help Ananse and the children count the drums

Counting Backwards in '10s'

Name _____   Date _____

The Lost Drums of Ananse
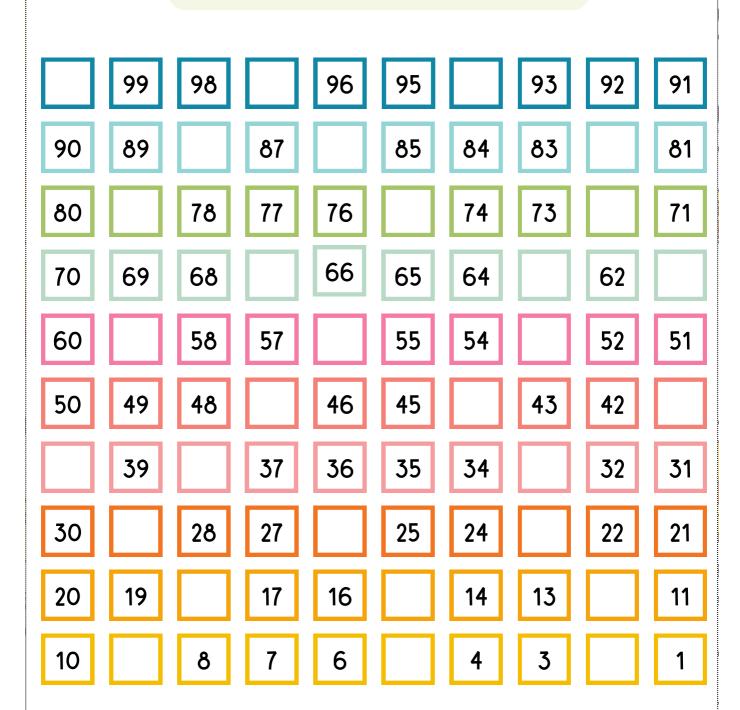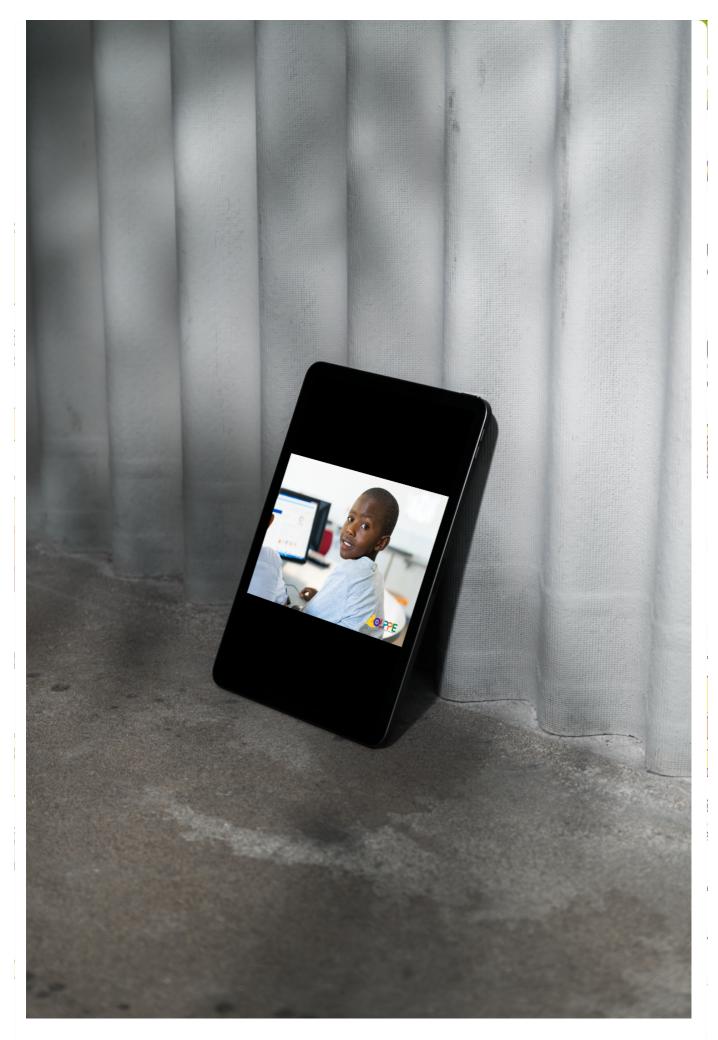
90

--

70

60

--

--

--

--

10

Counting Backwards from 100 to 1

Name _____   Date _____

Fill in the missing numbers

	99	98		96	95		93	92	91
90	89		87		85	84	83		81
80		78	77	76		74	73		71
70	69	68		66	65	64		62	
60		58	57		55	54		52	51
50	49	48		46	45		43	42	
	39		37	36	35	34		32	31
30		28	27		25	24		22	21
20	19		17	16		14	13		11
10		8	7	6		4	3		1

Match Counting Backwards in '5s'

Name _____ Date _____

Count and write the next four numbers in order from the given number:

90				

45				

20				

15				

Name _____   Date _____

Esi and the Magic Basket of Apples

Esi, a vibrant girl with an insatiable love for apples. This year, to her astonishment, her village chief gave her a basket of **40** apples.

The village legend said that to unlock the basket's magic for the next year, one must count its fruit in a unique way.

Remembering the tales her grandmother told her, Esi decided to count them backwards by twos. With a basket in hand, she picked the first two apples and said, "**38** apples left on the tree!" Her excitement grew as the magic unfolded.

After the next two, she exclaimed, "**36** apples now!"
With every pair of apples she picked, she continued, "**34**, **32**, **30**..."
As she reached the last two apples and counted, "**2**, and none!", the basket shimmered, and its base split slightly open, revealing a small cavity. Inside was a single golden seed.

Understanding the basket's gift, Esi gave the seed to the village chief, ensuring the magic of the basket would continue for generations.

Now let's help Esi count the apples

Counting Backwards in '2s'

Name _____ Date _____

Esi and the Magic Basket of Apples

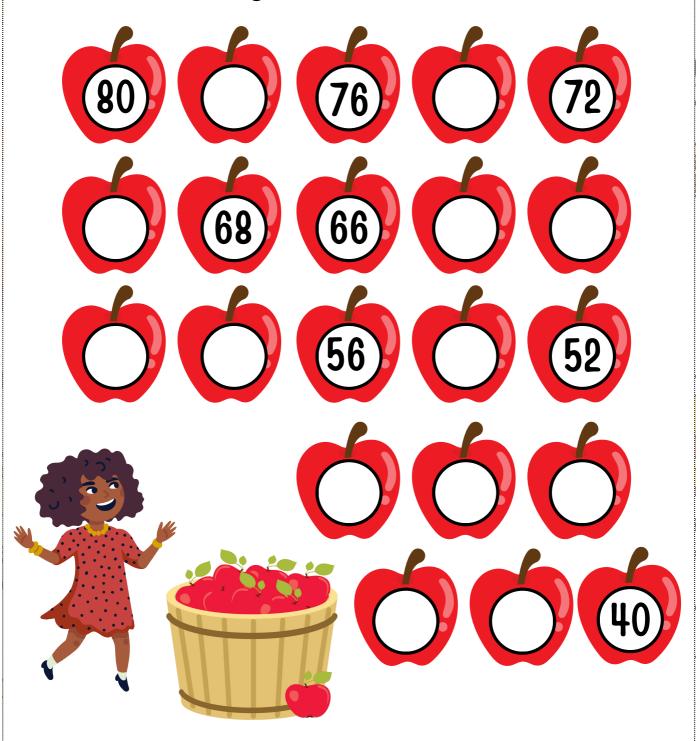Fill in the missing apple number in the sequence.

40		36		32
30		26		
	18			12

| | | 6 |

| | | |

Counting Backwards in '2s'

Name _____ Date _____

Esi and the Magic Basket of Apples

Fill in the missing apple number in the sequence.

80 _ 76 _ 72

_ 68 66 _ _

_ _ 56 _ 52

_ _ _

_ _ 40

Counting Backwards in '5s'

Name _____   Date _____
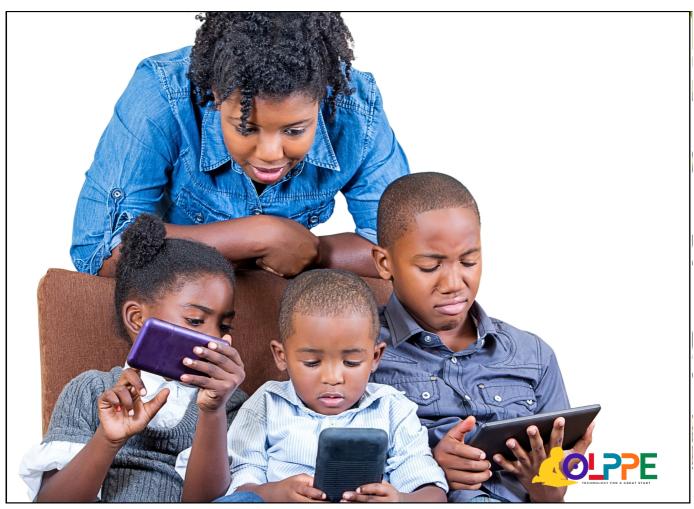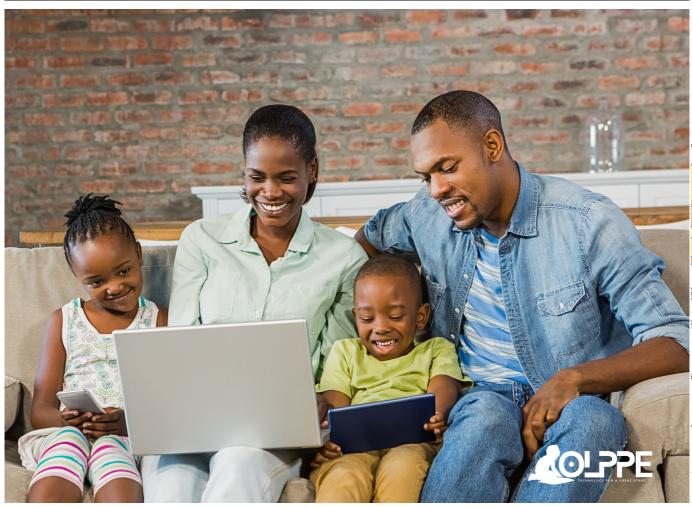
Adwoa's 50 Birthday Balloons

Adwoa was having her **10th** birthday, and she had a unique idea! She wanted to release balloons, counting them as they floated away.

She started with **50** bright balloons. As she let one go, she shouted, "**50**!" and watched it float up into the sky. Then she released another, shouting "**45**!" and watched as it joined the first balloon.

Adwoa continued releasing balloons and counting backwards by fives: "**40**, **35**, **30**, **25**..." Each time she let a balloon go, her friends joined in the countdown, their voices rising in excitement as the numbers got smaller.
"**20**, **15**, **10**!" Adwoa and her friends shouted together for the last few balloons. By the time the "**10**!" was called, all the balloons were floating high in the sky, creating a beautiful display of colours above them.

Everyone was laughing and clapping, and they promised to make it a tradition to do the same thing every year on Adwoa's birthday. The joyous countdown made the celebration even more special, and Adwoa felt happy and loved with her friends surrounding her, participating in the fun countdown from **50** to **10** by fives!
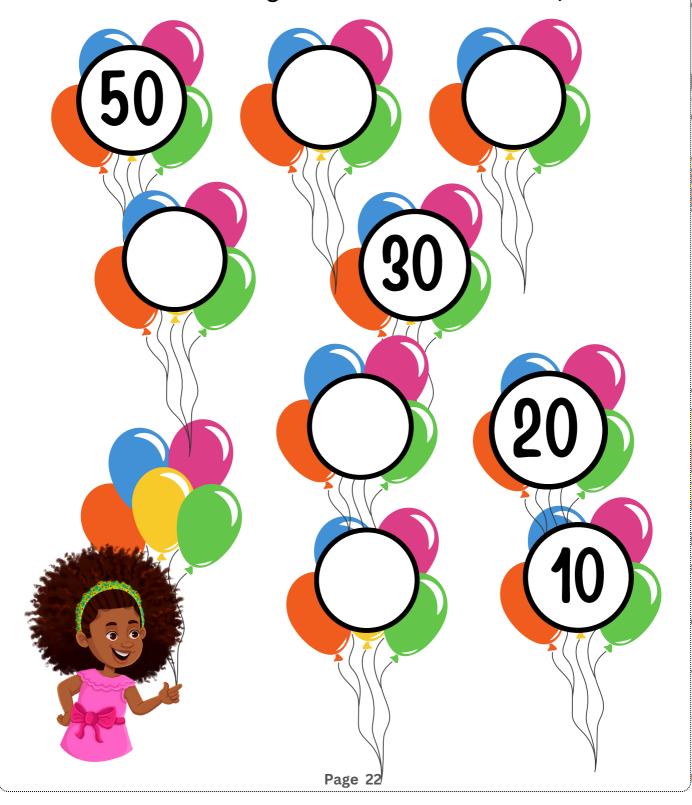
Now let's help Adwoa count the balloons

Counting Backwards in '5s'

Name _____ Date _____

Adwoa's 50 Birthday Balloons

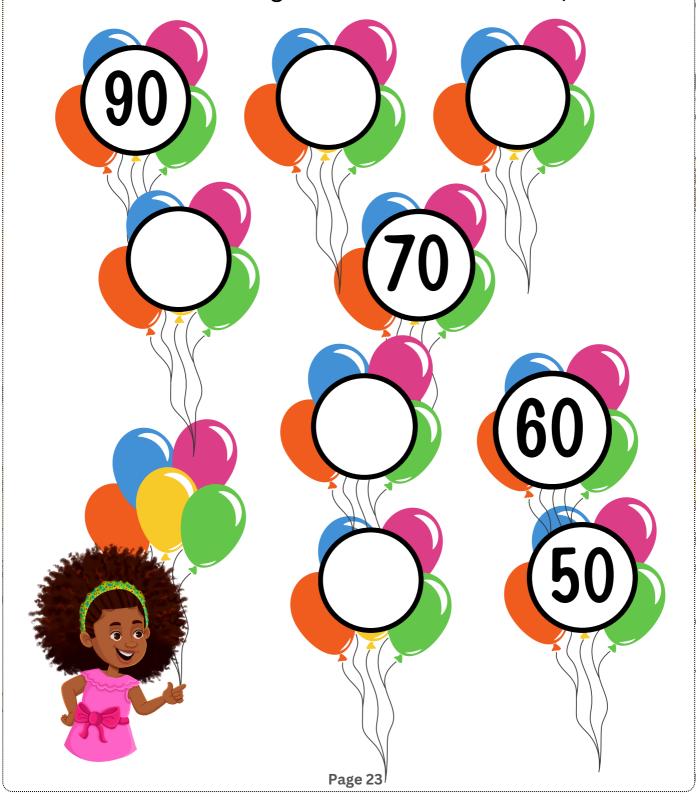Fill in the missing ballon number in the sequence.

50

30

20

10

Counting Backwards in '5s'

Name _____   Date _____

Adwoa's 90 Birthday Balloons

Fill in the missing ballon number in the sequence.

90   [ ]   [ ]

[ ]   70

[ ]   60

[ ]   50

Counting Backwards in '5s'
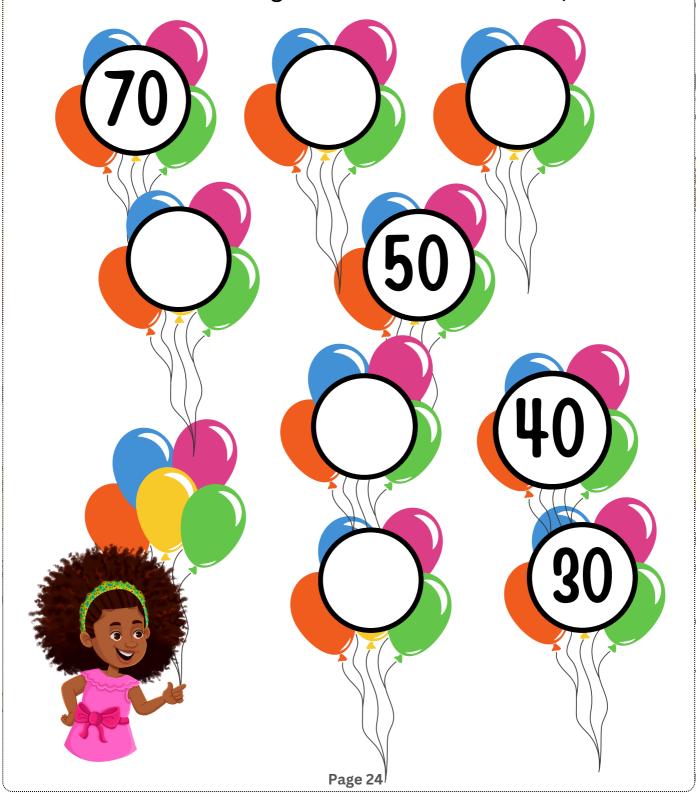
Name _____ Date _____

Adwoa's 70 Birthday Balloons
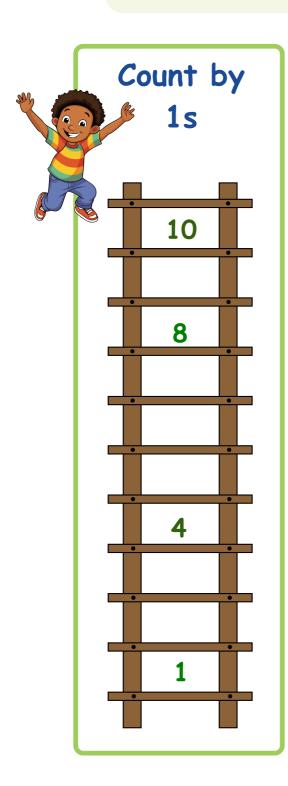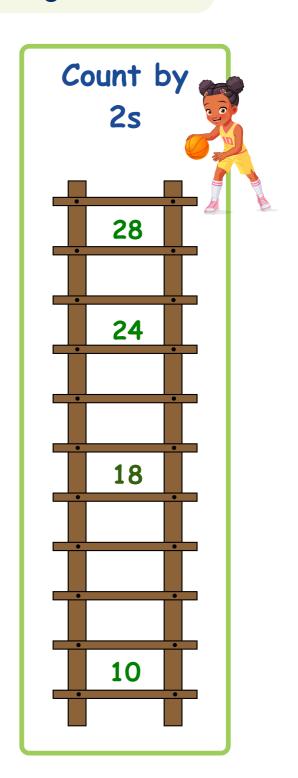
Fill in the missing ballon number in the sequence.

70

50

40

30

Counting Backwards by '1s' and '2s'

Name _____ Date _____
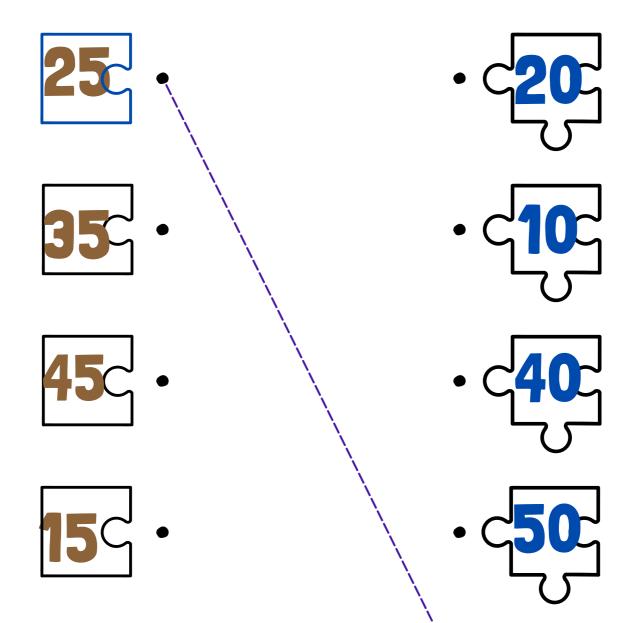
Fill in the missing numbers

Count by 1s

10

8

4

1

Count by 2s

28

24

18

10

Match Counting Backwards in '5'

Name _____   Date _____

Let's Match the numbers

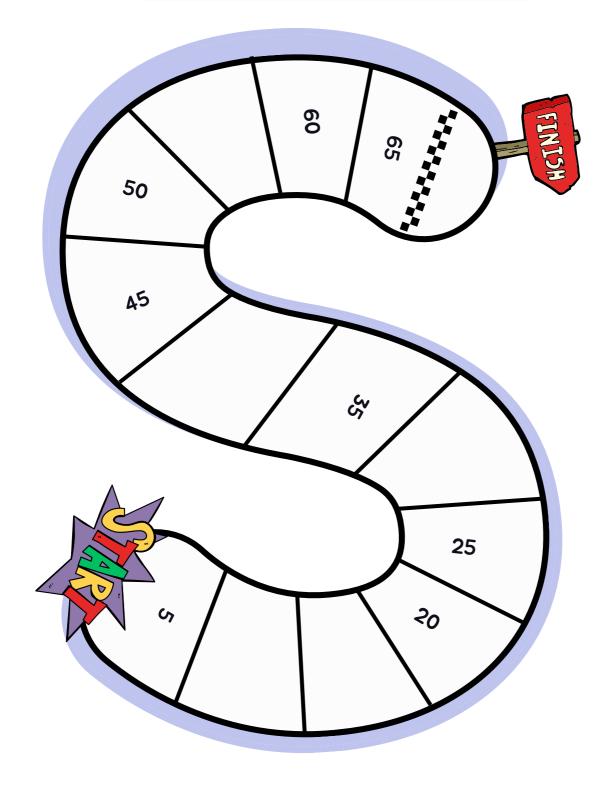|	
25	20
35	10
45	40
15	50
5	30

Match Counting Backwards in '5s'
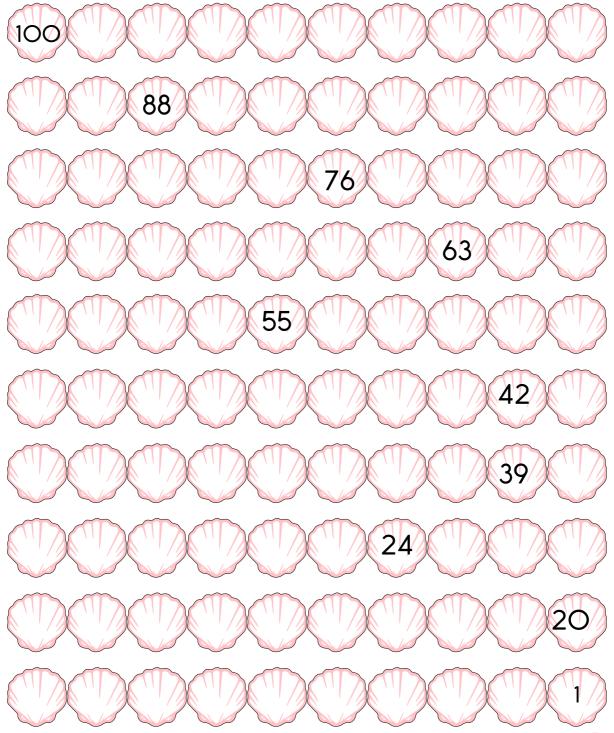
Name _____ Date _____

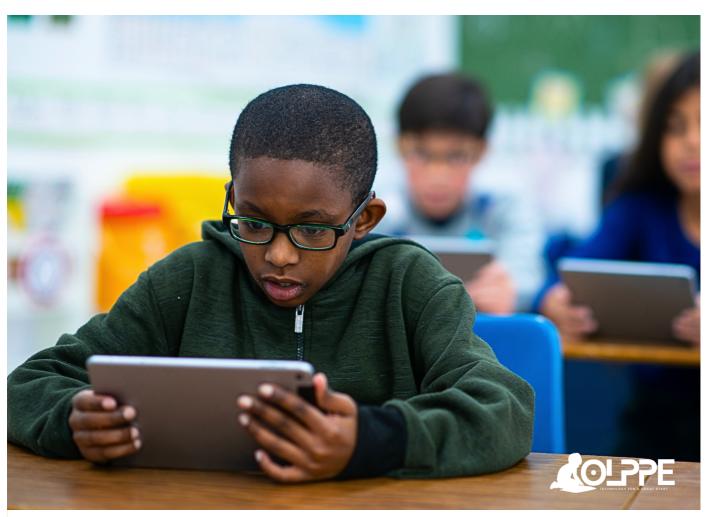## Fill in the missing numbers

Counting Backwards from 100 to 1

Name _____   Date _____

Fill in the missing numbers

100

88

76

63

55

42

39

24

20

1

Counting Backwards from 300

Name _____   Date _____

Read the story and answer the questions

The Great Baobab Countdown

In a small village near a towering baobab tree, the villagers prepare for the annual Baobab Festival. To get ready, they hang lanterns on the branches, starting from the top. The story follows their journey as they count down from 300 lanterns to the final one, with each step down the tree marking a decrement by one.

Questions:

1. If we start with **300** lanterns and hang one, what number lantern will be next?

2. After hanging **10** lanterns, which number lantern will they hang next?

3. How many lanterns will be left to hang after they reach lantern number **290**?

4. What number lantern will they hang if they have already hung **25** lanterns?

5. What is the number of the last lantern they hang?

Counting Backwards from 1000

Name _____   Date _____

Read the story and answer the questions

Laila's Starry Night

Laila, a girl who loves stargazing, counts stars in the sky starting from **1000**. Each night, she counts **20** fewer stars, making a wish upon each one.

The story follows her journey as she counts backwards, making wishes and learning about constellations.

Questions:

1. Laila starts counting stars from **1000**. How many stars does she count on the second night?

2. After four nights of counting, how many stars does Laila count on the fourth night?

3. If Laila counts **960** stars on one night, how many nights has she been counting?

4. What is the number of stars Laila counts on the fifth night?

5. If Laila ends her counting journey at **900** stars, how many nights did she count stars?

Counting in Steps by '10s'

Name _____   Date _____

Count and write the next four numbers in order from the given number:

150				

220				

340				

500				

Counting in Steps by '10s'

Name _____   Date _____

Count and write the next four numbers in order from the given number:

100				

820				

940				

710				

Counting in Steps by
'10s', '5s', '2s', and '1s'

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the next counting number.
Number 1 has been done for you.

1. 100, 200, 300   70   60   (400)

2. 180, 185, 190   195   186   191

3. 145, 155, 165   170   175   166

4. 301, 302, 303   305   304   306

5. 755, 760, 765   766   775   770

6. 972, 974, 976   978   979   980

7. 75, 80, 85   95   90   70

8. 92, 94, 96   97   99   98

Counting from 101 to 200

Name _____   Date _____

Fill in the missing numbers:

101			104			107			110
	112			115			118		
		123			126			129	
131				135					140
		143				147			
	152				156			159	
161				165			168		170
		173				177			
181			184					189	
	192			195			198		200

Counting from 201 to 300

Name _____   Date _____

Fill in the missing numbers:

201		203		205		207		
	212				216		218		220
221						227		229	
		233		235				
241	242					247		249	250
	252		254		256		258		260
		263		265		267		
271			274				278		280
		283		285		287		289	
	292		294		296		298		300

Counting in Steps by '1s'

Name _____ Date _____

What number comes Before and After?

Before   **After?**

Before		After?
126	127	128
_____	221	_____
_____	673	_____
_____	310	_____
_____	999	_____
_____	828	_____
_____	745	_____
_____	492	_____
_____	301	_____

Counting in Steps by '1s'

Name _____   Date _____
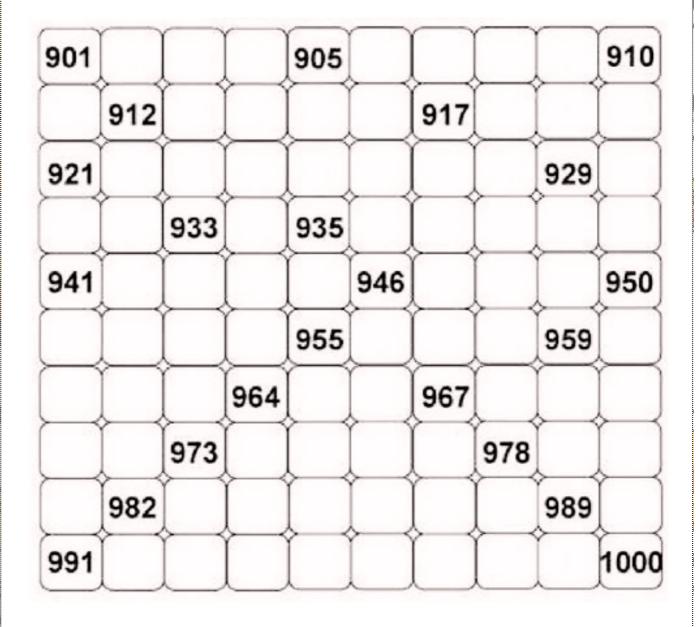
What number comes Before and After?

	287	

		542
540		

755		757

	5	

	379	

424		426

514		516

	373	

	894	

336		338

216		218

	126	

	980	

303		305

581		583

	608	

	196	

857		859

Counting from 901 to 1000

Name _____   Date _____

Fill in the missing numbers:

901				905					910
	912					917			
921								929	
		933		935					
941					946				950
				955				959	
			964			967			
		973					978		
	982							989	
991									1000

Counting from 600 to 700

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the missing numbers:

600			603				607		
	611				615				619
	621			624			627		
630						636			
			643		645			648	
	651			654					659
		662					667		
			673					678	
680						686			
		692					697		

Counting Backwards from 500 to 300

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story and answer the questions

Kofi's Safari Adventure

Kofi, a young boy, goes on a safari adventure and sees animals in groups. He starts spotting them in groups of **500** and counts backwards.

Each animal group he encounters is smaller by **10** than the previous, as he marvels at the variety of wildlife.

Questions:

1. Kofi starts with a group of **500** animals. After the first group, how many are in the next group he sees?
2. If Kofi sees **3** groups of animals, what is the size of the third group?
3. How many animals will Kofi see in total if he sees **5** groups?
4. If Kofi counts backwards and reaches a group of **470** animals, how many groups has he seen?
5. What is the number of the last group of animals Kofi sees if he counts down to **450**?

Counting Backwards in '10s'

Name _____   Date _____

Count and write the next four numbers in order from the given number:

989				

235				

712				

845				

Counting Shapes

Name _____   Date _____
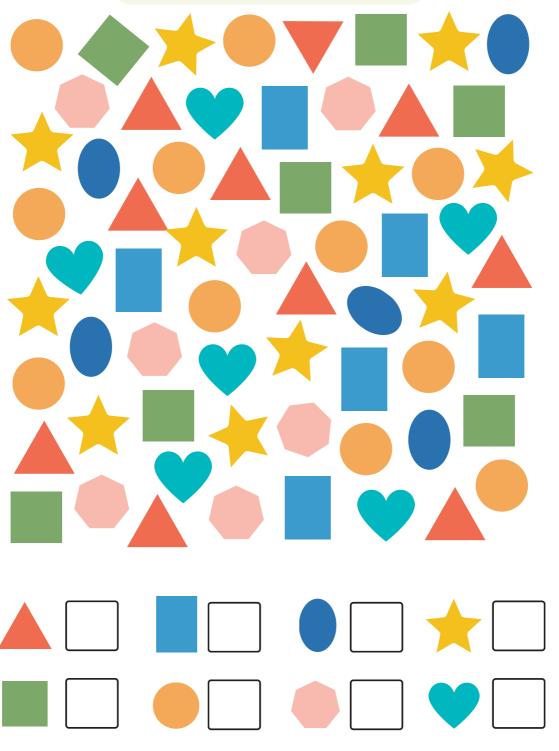
Count and write your answers in the chart below:

Counting Shapes

Name _____   Date _____
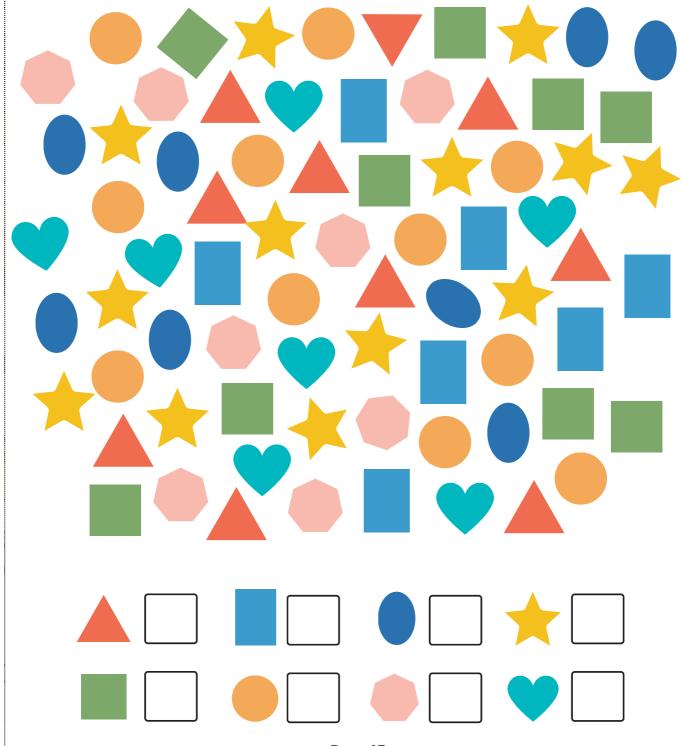
Count and write your answers in the chart below:

Performance Tracker

Name _____   Date _____   Grade _____

Quiz Number	Title of Quiz	Score
Quiz 1	Counting Backwards in '1s' – Nana's Magical Beads	
Quiz 2	Counting Backwards in '1s' – Kweku's Beachside Kites	
Quiz 3	Counting Backwards in '5s': Count and write the next four numbers in order from the given number:	
Quiz 4	Counting Backwards in '5s' – Ayo's Harvest Festival	
Quiz 5	Counting Backwards in '10s' – The Lost Drums of Ananse	
Quiz 6	Counting Backwards from 100 to 1	
Quiz 7	Match Counting Backwards in '5s'	
Quiz 8	Counting Backwards in '2s' – Esi and the Magic Basket of Apples	
Quiz 9	Counting Backwards in '2s' – Esi and the Magic Basket of Apples	
Quiz 10	Counting Backwards in '5s' – Adwoa's 50 Birthday Balloons	
Quiz 11	Counting Backwards in '5s' – Adwoa's 90 Birthday Balloons	
Quiz 12	Counting Backwards in '5s' – Adwoa's 90 Birthday Balloons	
Quiz 13	Counting Backwards by '1s' and '2s'	
Quiz 14	Match Counting Backwards in '5'	
	Sub-Total	

Performance Tracker

Name _____   Date _____   Grade _____

Quiz Number	Title of Quiz	Score
Quiz 15	Match Counting Backwards in '5'	
Quiz 16	Counting Backwards from 100 to 1	
Quiz 17	Counting Backwards from 300	
Quiz 18	Counting Backwards from 1000	
Quiz 19	Counting in Steps by '10'	
Quiz 20	Counting in Steps by '10'	
Quiz 21	Counting in Steps by '10s', '5s', '2s', and '1s'	
Quiz 22	Counting from 101 to 200	
Quiz 23	Counting from 201 to 300	
Quiz 24	Counting in Steps by '1s'	
Quiz 25	Counting in Steps by '1s'	
Quiz 26	Counting from 901 to 1000	
Quiz 27	Counting from 600 to 700	
Quiz 28	Counting Backwards from 500 to 300	
Quiz 29	Counting Backwards in '10s'	
Quiz 30	Counting Shapes	
Quiz 31	Counting Shapes	
	Sub-Total	
	Total Score Achieved	

Index

Index

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