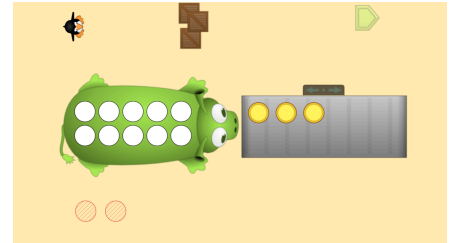




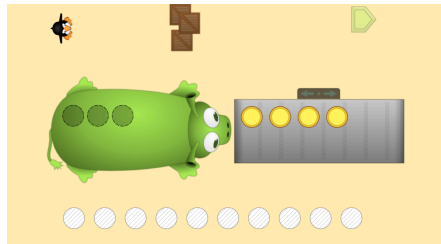
Materials

Pie Monster Game Mats
a dry erase marker
math tools such as snap cubes or two-color counters

- Give students a Pie Monster Game Mat, a dry erase marker and math tools.
- Display the first puzzle in Level 1. Ask students, “What do you notice? How do you think we solve this puzzle?”
- Have students turn and talk to a neighbor. Share students’ thinking. Ask students, “What do you think the red striped pies represent?” Have students use their game mat to solve the puzzle.
- Try a student’s solution and watch the feedback together. Ask students, “What is happening in this problem? Are we adding or subtracting? How do you know?”
- Solve a few more puzzles in Level 1. Select one of the puzzles and work together to write an equation to represent what happened in the puzzle. Ask students to explain which part of the puzzle each number in the equation represents.



Directions



- Display the first puzzle in Level 2. Ask students, “How is this puzzle different from the ones we just solved? What is the unknown in this puzzle?”
- Have students use their game mat and math tools to solve the puzzle. Share students’ strategies and solutions. Model how to write an equation with a ? to represent that the change is unknown. For example, $5 - ? = 1$.
- Repeat with a couple more puzzles in Level 2.
- Display the first puzzle in Level 3. Ask students, “Now what is unknown in the puzzle? How could we represent that with an equation?” Model how to write an equation with a ? to represent that the start is unknown. For example, $? - 2 = 4$.
- Repeat with a few more puzzles in Level 3. Remind students that what we don’t know can be in different parts of the equation.

Sample Questions

- What is the unknown in this puzzle?
- How could we represent this puzzle with an equation?
- What part of the puzzle does each part of your equation represent?
- What is your strategy for finding the unknown in this puzzle?
- How do you know your answer is correct?

What to look for

- How does the students:
- use the Pie Monster Game Mat to help solve the puzzles?
 - share different strategies to solve the puzzle?
 - write equations to represent the puzzle and solution?
 - discuss the action in the puzzle when it is solved?
 - discuss what is known and unknown in the puzzle?