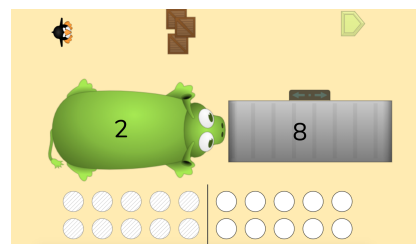
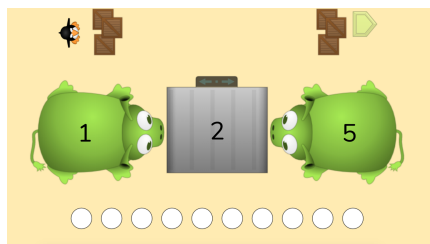


Materials

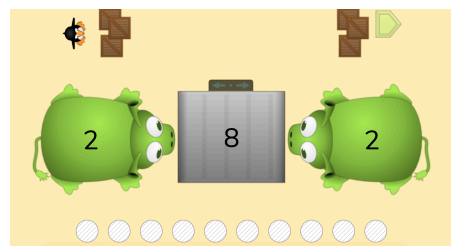
Pie Monster game mat
dry erase markers
math tools

- Give students a Pie Monster game mat, dry erase marker and math tools. Display the first puzzle in Level 1. Ask students, “What do you notice?” Have students share all of the things they see in the puzzle.
- Say to students, “What does each number in this puzzle represent? How many pies does the Pie Monster have? How many pies does the Pie Monster want to eat? What do we need to do to end up with the correct number of pies?”
- Have students use their game mat and tools to find a solution.
- Try a student’s solution and watch the feedback. Talk with students about what happened as they solved the puzzle.
- Display the next puzzle in Level 1. Discuss what is known and unknown in the puzzle. Ask students how many steps it takes to solve the puzzle. Work together to write an equation to represent the puzzle.


Directions


- Display the first puzzle in Level 2. Ask students, “How is this puzzle different from the puzzles we just solved? How do you think you solve this puzzle?”
- Have students use their game mat and tools to find a solution. Ask students to share possible solutions.
- Ask students, “How many steps does it take to solve this puzzle? How could we represent this puzzle with an equation?”
- Solve the puzzle and watch the feedback. Look for the two steps that are happening in the puzzle. Have students share their strategy for solving the puzzle. What was the first step? The second step?

- Repeat with a few more puzzles in Level 2 and then move on to a few puzzles in Level 3 to work with subtraction puzzles. Focus on the two steps needed to solve the puzzle and how to represent those steps with an equation.


Sample Questions

- What is happening in this puzzle?
- What does each number in this puzzle represent?
- What is known in this puzzle? What are you trying to find out?
- How many steps does it take to solve this puzzle?
- How could we represent this puzzle with an equation?
- What strategy did you use to solve this puzzle?

What to look for

- How does the student:
- use the game mat and tools to help solve the puzzles?
 - write equations to represent the puzzles?
 - identify what the numbers in the puzzles represent?
 - explain the strategy they used to solve the puzzle?