

What's Missing?

Students complete number sentences involving missing addends or sums within 10.

Warm-up

1. To prepare students for this activity, you will need 20 marbles and 3 egg cartons. Ahead of time, place the number of marbles that represents each addend of a simple addition sentence, into each of two egg cartons—one marble per section. Place the number of marbles that represents the sum in the third egg carton, placed to the right of the other two cartons. The arrangement should correspond to the addition sentence.
2. Working with the class, open two egg cartons—one that shows an addend and one that shows the sum. Write the incomplete number sentence on the chalkboard so that the missing number represents the other addend. Have students suggest how many marbles they think are in the closed egg carton. Record different suggestions on the chalkboard (tallying similar responses) and then open the carton to see how many there are. Insert the missing addend into the number sentence.
3. Model other addition problems this way, asking for an addend or a sum, and writing the corresponding number sentences.

Introducing the Activity

1. Give a copy of the blackline master “What’s Missing?” to each student. Read aloud the directions for the first task.
2. Tell students that in the first problem, one carton of eggs is empty, but the total number of eggs in the two cartons on the left should equal the number of eggs in the carton on the right. They need to figure out how many eggs should be placed in the empty egg carton and draw that many eggs in the empty carton. Have students trace over the outline of the egg in the second carton and the number that shows how many eggs are in the carton. Have students complete the next three problems.
3. Now, read aloud the directions for the second task. Tell students that in these problems, numbers show how many eggs are in two of the three egg cartons. They are to find the number that completes each number sentence.

Assessment Tip

Observe students as they complete the activity. Find out if they can:

- Complete addition sentences when one addend is missing.

Try this, too!

Group students into pairs to play their own games of “What’s Missing?” Each student needs 3 envelopes and 20 counters. Have one player in a pair think of an addition sentence. Then, place counters that represent each addend in two envelopes and counters that represent the sum in the third envelope. The other player opens the envelopes representing one addend and the sum and must determine how many counters are in the closed envelope. The players then open the envelope and check the answer. Have players switch roles. In this game, there is no scoring, and everyone is a winner!

Students will need

- blackline master: “What’s Missing?”—1 copy per student
- crayons or pencils

Approximate Time

- 15 minutes

Grouping

- individual

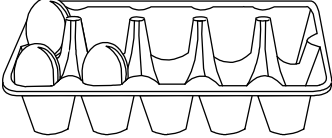
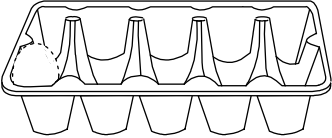
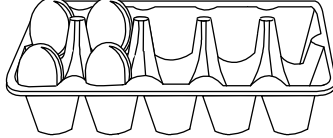
NCTM Standards

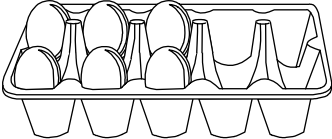
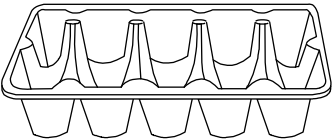
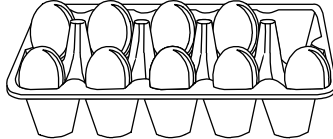
- Number & Operations
 - Algebra
 - Problem Solving
 - Representation
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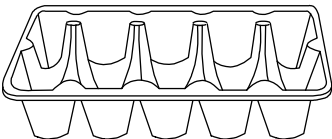
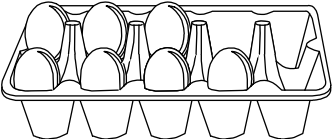
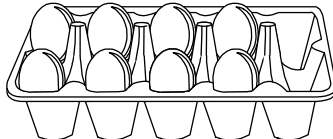
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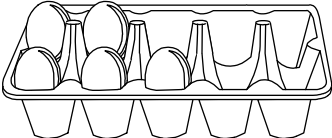
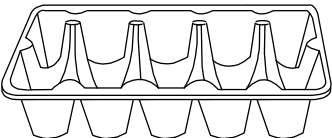
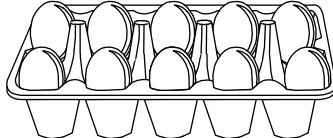
What's Missing?

Draw eggs in the . Write the missing number.

 +  = 
3 + = **4**

 +  = 
_____ + _____ = _____

 +  = 
_____ + _____ = _____

 +  = 
_____ + _____ = _____

Write the missing number.

3 + = **5**

8 + = **10**

+ **3** = **7**