

Leaf Games: Add & Take

Represent addition and subtraction with leaf games — sets of leaves used to tell stories in the sand, in the tradition of the Warlpiri Peoples of Yuendumu. Add leaves as characters join the story, and take leaves away as they leave.

Tell the story with leaves

“Four leaves are placed, two more are added, then three are taken away.”

$$\boxed{\text{4 leaves}} + \boxed{\text{2 leaves}} - \boxed{\text{3 leaves}} = \boxed{3}$$

Four and two more make six, take three away — three leaves are left.

SPOTLIGHT

Leaves can be added or taken

The same leaf game shows both adding and taking away.

Add leaves: $3 + 2 = 5$



two leaves join — five

Take leaves: $6 - 2 = 4$



two leaves taken — four

Tell a leaf story

Place leaves in the sand and tell a story with them.

Add and take away

Add leaves as they join, take some as they leave.

Record the number

Say and write how many leaves are left at the end.