

Many Ways to Show a Number

Explore how different cultures represent the same count in different ways — beads on an abacus, hand and finger counts, tally marks and written numerals can all show how many.

Four ways to show the number five

5

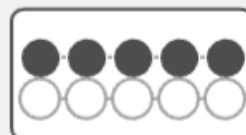
numeral



tally marks

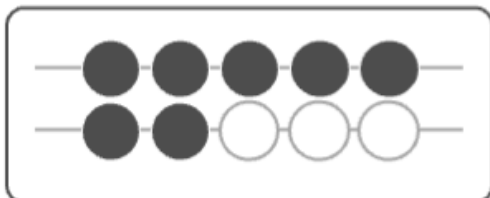


dot pattern



abacus

A closer look: the abacus



beads slid across show 7

- Beads on rods stand for numbers.
- Slide beads across to show a count.
- People across the Asia region count this way; some also use hand and finger gestures.

Make a bead frame

Thread beads onto string and slide across to count.

Count with hands

Learn a finger or hand count used in another culture.

Tally together

Record class counts using tally marks in fives.