

Stories, Dance & Balance

Elaboration 6 · Stories and dances as number sentences

ELABORATION FOCUS

Using First Nations Australians' stories and dances to see how adding and subtracting balance.

LEARNING INTENTION I can write a fact family from a story or dance.

Story

Dance

Parts

Whole

Fact family

1

Listen to the Story

Find the whole group and the smaller parts inside the story or dance.

2

Show the Balance

Dancers joining in is adding, and dancers sitting down again is subtracting.

3

Write the Fact Family

Two adding sentences and two taking away sentences use the very same numbers.

MODEL · A DANCE CIRCLE OF 12

Twelve dancers in the circle: five are dancing and seven are sitting.

Whole

12 dancers in the circle

Parts

7 sitting

5 dancing

$$7 + 5 = 12 \quad 5 + 7 = 12$$

The same three numbers give $7 + 5 = 12$, $5 + 7 = 12$, $12 - 5 = 7$ and $12 - 7 = 5$.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Writing a sentence that does not match the story, or mixing up part and whole.

REMEMBER

Adding and subtracting undo each other, so one story gives four sentences.

MATERIALS

Story books by First Nations authors, counters, clapping sticks, part-whole mats.

Cultural note: these story and dance contexts are a general teaching guide only. Please check with local First Nations community members and Elders before use. Skillr Education does not claim cultural authority.