

COUNTING SEA STARS (K-2):

Common Core Standards - Math
- Operations & Algebraic
Thinking: [K.OA.1](#), [1.OA.1](#), [2.OA.3](#)

DIRECTIONS:

Look at [pictures of sea stars](#) on the Marine Life Photography website.

Choose one that looks the most interesting to you. Is its body smooth or textured? How many arms does it have? Are these arms thin or round?

With a permanent marker, draw the sea star on five bottle caps, including the details that you noticed. Write the number of arms that the sea star has on the back of each cap.

Place two sea stars next to each other on a piece of white scratch paper. Write a plus sign between them and an equal sign at the end. Add the first star's number of arms to second star's number of arms. Write your answer after the equal sign. Repeat with three, four, and five stars.

Place two sea stars next to each other on a piece of white scratch paper. Write a minus sign between them and an equal sign at the end. Subtract the second star's number of arms from the first star's number of arms. Write your answer after the equal sign. Next, add two stars and subtract one, repeating with three and four. Then, add three stars and subtract two.

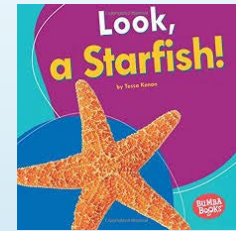
Pair up with a classmate that has chosen a sea star with a different number of arms. Trade stars with them and repeat this exercise.

MATERIALS:

permanent markers, plastic bottle caps, white scratch paper



BOOKS:



[Look, a Starfish!](#), Tessa Kenan



[On the Elevator](#), Tom Rosado



[Sea Stars](#), Rebecca Pettiford

VIDEO:

[The Odd Squad: Soundcheck](#), PBS LearningMedia



WEBSITE:

[Math Games](#), PBS Kids