



Clean Foundation is an independent, non-governmental environmental charity that began in 1988.

Counting on Nature

To put an environmental lens on any mathematical problem to keep environmental awareness alive and well, even during math homework!

Have your learner draw pictures of the items they are adding or subtracting. Then write a math sentence to solve each one. Choose any amount of math equations that interest your learner. You can also just read and solve them out loud. Keep it light and fun!

1. After eating lunch, Janelle had 4 orange peels, 1 granola bar wrapper and 1 bread crust left over. How many items did Janelle put into the green bin?

Answer: $4 \text{ orange peels} + 1 \text{ bread crust} = 5 \text{ items in the green bin}$ 😊

2. Clara wanted to do something good for the Earth, so she saved up her money and bought 12 reusable water bottles to give to fellow classmates that didn't have one. When she got to school there were only 7 students in her class that needed one. How many reusable water bottles did Clara have left over?

Answer: $12 - 7 = 5 \text{ reusable water bottles}$

3. Hans wanted to make the air in his town cleaner, so he put up 7 wind turbines on his property to produce clean energy. His next door neighbour Guntar liked the idea so much that he put up 15 more wind turbines. How many wind turbines were there in total?

Answer: $7 + 15 = 22 \text{ wind turbines}$

4. Layla and Sparsh were playing in the garden after school. Sparsh dug up 5 worms in his hands to watch them wriggle around. Layla looked for another worm for her friend but dug up 2 centipedes, 3 ants and 1 beetle instead. Who had the most critters in their pile? Sparsh or Layla?

Answer: Layla since she had 6 critters. $2 + 3 + 1 = 6$

5. Tony was playing outside in a fresh snowfall when he decided to make a snowman. He needed a ball of snow for the head, body and bottom. How many balls of snow did Tony need to roll?

Answer: $1 + 1 + 1 = 3 \text{ balls of snow}$

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6. On Summit Street, there are 6 houses. 3 of the houses have solar panels on their roofs. How many more houses on Summit Street need solar panels?

Answer: $6 - 3 = 3$ houses

7. Bella had 2 reusable shopping bags her friend and Calvin had 5 reusable shopping bags. If they went shopping together, how many reusable bags would they have?

Answer: $2 + 5 = 7$ reusable shopping bags

8. On Monday, 3 red leaves fell on Monya's front porch. 4 orange leaves fell on Monya's front porch on Tuesday. 2 yellow leaves fell on Monya's porch on Wednesday. How many leaves does Monya have on her porch?

Answer: $3 + 4 + 2 = 9$ leaves

9. If there was zero waste after lunch from Monday to Friday in Ms. Tupper's class, how many days could Ms. Tupper's class say they had waste-free lunches?

Answer: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday = 5 days (woo hoo!)

10. If Della bought 2 apples grown in Nova Scotia and her husband Jaxon bought 5 apples grown in Nova Scotia and 2 apples from New Zealand, how many apples from Nova Scotia would they have?

Answer: $2 + 5 = 7$ apples grown in Nova Scotia (Yeah, buy local!)

11. Ben and Sasha grew a vegetable garden together. They planted 18 carrots. They both loved fresh carrots so much but had to divide their harvest in two. How many carrots would Ben and Sasha get to eat?

Answer: 18 divided by $2 = 9$ carrots each (Big Foot loves carrots too!)

12. If there are 9 forests, and each forest has 10 birch trees in it, how many birch trees are there in total?

Answer: 9 Birch trees \times 10 Birch trees = 90 Birch trees (keep planting those trees!)

