

# Choral Counting

In this routine, the teacher decides on a number for the students to skip count by, whether to count forwards or backwards and what number to start and end the count on. Different numbers lend themselves well to surfacing different mathematical ideas.

The goal of this activity is not just to practice rote counting, but to engage children in reasoning, predicting, and justifying. To do this, teachers record the count so that patterns within the numbers are readily noticeable and pause during the count to ask questions like, “What do you think will come next? How do you know?”

The flow of the instructional routine is:

<b><u>A. Orienting to the task:</u></b>	1. Launch: <i>(1 - 2 minutes)</i>	Tell students why they are doing this activity and how the activity will run. What number are we starting with and what number are we counting by?
<b><u>B. Connect to Prior Knowledge</u></b>	2. Individual think time: <i>(10 - 30 seconds)</i> 3. Pair: <i>(15 - 30 seconds)</i>	Students predict what the first few numbers will be and then share their predictions with a partner.
<b><u>C. Counting</u></b>	4. Choral Count <i>(2 - 4 minutes)</i>	Students count together, slowly enough that the teacher has time to record the count.
<b><u>D. Look for patterns in the count</u></b>	5. Independent think time: <i>(10 sec - 20 sec)</i> 6. Pair: <i>(30 sec - 1 minute)</i> 7. Share patterns: <i>(2 - 3 minutes)</i>	Students look for patterns and relationships in the numbers, share those patterns with a partner, and then selected students share their patterns with the class. The teacher can ask other students to repeat, rephrase, or reword the patterns shared while she annotates the record of the count.
<b><u>E. Reflection (Optional)</u></b>	8. Individual thinking/writing: <i>(1 - 2 minutes)</i> 9. Pair: <i>(30 seconds)</i> 10. Share: <i>(2 - 3 minutes)</i>	Students think or write independently, students share what they wrote with a partner, then selected students share their reflections with the whole class.

## Learn more about the routine:

- [Watch videos of the routine](#) (click on “Introduce)
- [Read more about the routine](#)

## Resources:

1. [Detailed description](#)
2. [Task Planning Document](#)
3. [Lesson Plan](#)
4. [Sample Tasks](#)