Tally marks: answers and notes

What your child practised: making tally marks in gates of five, reading tallies by counting in fives, and sorting groups from most to fewest (Year 2 statistics).

Page 1 · Warm up

3 · 6 · 10

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check every fifth mark closes a gate, and that each total matches its tally.

Page 2 · A. How many?

8 · 13 · 5 · 17

Page 3 · B. Draw a tally

4: four lines, no gate · 9: one gate and 4 lines · 15: three gates

Page 3 · C. Pond tally chart

Ducks: one gate and 4 lines, total **9**
Frogs: one gate and 1 line, total **6**
Fish: 4 lines, total **4**

Page 3 · D. Most to fewest

ducks (9), frogs (6), fish (4)

Challenge: No, Leo isn't right. The tally is one gate and 3 lines: **5, 6, 7, 8**, so it shows **8**. Leo counted the gate as 4, because he forgot the line across. Every gate is 5.

Watch out for

- **Counting a gate as 4.** Ask your child to touch all five lines of one gate, including the one across: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5. A gate is always 5."
- **Drawing a 5th line standing up** instead of across. Show that the line across makes the 5 easy to spot.
- **Mixing up "most" and "fewest".** Most is the biggest number, the longest tally. Fewest is the smallest number.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Window tally:** stand at a window for five minutes and tally cars, bikes and buses going by.
- **Finger gates:** hold up a hand for each 5 and count "5, 10, 15", then add single fingers.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2 turns tallies into numbers in a simple table, and finds totals.