

THE PIE-MAKING PARTY LESSON PLAN

Thanksgiving Multiplication Adventure for K-1st Grade

This Month™

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Age/Grade Level: K-1st Grade

Time: 15-35 minutes

Theme/Season: Thanksgiving preparation, fall harvest baking traditions

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Practice skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s
- Understand repeated addition as early multiplication
- Count groups of objects with one-to-one correspondence
- Develop number sense through visual grouping strategies
- Build confidence with numbers through engaging, low-stakes practice

MATERIALS NEEDED

For Classrooms: ✓ Computer, tablet, or interactive whiteboard with internet access ✓ Interactive game link (provided at end of lesson plan) ✓ Optional: Real measuring cups, spoons, and play food for hands-on extension ✓ Optional: Chart paper for class skip counting practice

For Families: ✓ Computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet ✓ 15-20 minutes of focused learning time together ✓ Optional: Paper and pencil for drawing ingredient groups ✓ Optional: Real kitchen ingredients for counting practice (plastic cup, measuring spoons, apples)

STANDARDS/DEVELOPMENTAL ALIGNMENT

Common Core K.CC.A.1: Count to 100 by ones and by tens

Common Core K.CC.B.5: Count to answer "how many?" questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, rectangular array, or circle

Common Core 1.OA.C.5: Relate counting to addition and subtraction

Common Core 1.OA.D.7: Understand the meaning of the equal sign, and determine if equations involving addition are true or false

Mathematical Practices MP.7: Look for and make use of structure

Mathematical Practices MP.8: Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: WARM-UP - INTRODUCE SKIP COUNTING (5 minutes)

- ✓ Begin by reviewing or introducing skip counting concepts. Ask students: "Have you ever helped make something for a holiday meal? Today we're going to help make Thanksgiving pies!"
- ✓ **For Educators:** Gather students where they can see your demonstration screen. Show groups of 2, 5, or 10 objects (blocks, counters, or drawn circles). Count by ones, then demonstrate skip counting: "Instead of counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, we can count faster: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10!" Practice together as a class.
- ✓ **For Families:** Sit together and use household items (buttons, cereal pieces, coins). Make small groups and practice counting: "Let's count by 2s! Ready? 2, 4, 6, 8, 10!" Use your fingers, clap, or stomp to make it multisensory.

STEP 2: INTRODUCE THE GAME (3 minutes)

- ✓ Explain the game scenario: "We're making 3 pies for a Thanksgiving party! Each pie needs certain ingredients. We need to figure out how many ingredients we need in total."
- ✓ Show the game interface and point out: • The mixing bowls at the bottom (these will fill up as we complete ingredients!) • The ingredient we're working on (with its emoji picture) • The visual groups showing how many of each ingredient goes in each pie
- ✓ **For Educators:** Use the interactive whiteboard to demonstrate how to read the problem: "If we're making 3 pies and each pie needs 2 sticks of butter, how many sticks do we need total?"
- ✓ **For Families:** Explain that the game will show pictures to help: "See? Each pie gets 2 butter sticks. Let's count them together!"

STEP 3: GUIDED PRACTICE - PLAY TOGETHER (10 minutes)

Start with Practice Mode (Auto-Count) for K-1st students. This mode automatically skip counts with visual support.

For Educators:

Project the game and solve the first ingredient together as a class:

- "Let's look at Pie 1. It has 2 apples. Let's count: 1, 2."
- "Now Pie 2 also has 2 apples. Let's keep counting: 3, 4."
- "And Pie 3 has 2 more apples: 5, 6!"
- "Wait! Let's try skip counting instead: 2, 4, 6! So much faster!"

Click the "Skip Count With Me" button and count aloud together as the numbers appear on screen. Celebrate when the mixing bowl fills up!

For Families:

Read the problem aloud together. Count the items in each group, then try skip counting: "Can you count by 2s with me? Ready? 2... 4... 6! Great job!" Watch the animation together and celebrate when the bowl fills.

STEP 4: INDEPENDENT/PARTNER PRACTICE (10 minutes)

Allow students to continue through the remaining ingredients.

For Educators:

- Students can work independently on tablets or in pairs at the interactive whiteboard
- Circulate and listen for skip counting: Are they counting by ones or using skip counting strategies?
- Encourage students who finish to try "Challenge Mode" (where they fill in the answer themselves)
- For students who need support, work in a small group and use manipulatives alongside the game

For Families:

- Sit beside your child and let them lead, offering hints when needed
- Ask: "How many ingredients are in each pie? How many pies are we making?"
- If they're stuck, count the first group together, then encourage them to continue
- Celebrate mistakes: "Oops! Let's try counting again. Want to use your fingers?"

STEP 5: REFLECTION & CELEBRATION (5 minutes)

After completing all ingredients, watch the victory animation together!

For Educators:

Gather students and discuss:

- "What did you notice about skip counting? Was it faster than counting by ones?"
- "Which ingredient was easiest to count? Which was trickiest?"
- "Can you think of other times we count groups of things? (Pairs of shoes, fingers on hands, eggs in a carton)"

For Families:

Celebrate your child's effort:

- "You made all those pies! Great skip counting!"
- "What was your favorite part?"
- "Next time we bake together, let's practice skip counting our ingredients!"

EXTENSIONS/VARIATIONS

For Students Who Need Support:

- Start with just 2 pies instead of 3 (adjust expectations)
- Use physical manipulatives alongside the game (counters, blocks, or drawn pictures)
- Practice skip counting chants before playing: "2, 4, 6, 8, 10!" with clapping or movement
- Focus on skip counting by 2s before introducing 5s or 10s

For Advanced Students (1st Grade Ready for More):

- Switch to "Challenge Mode" where students fill in answers independently
- Create word problems based on the game: "If we made 4 pies instead of 3, how many apples would we need?"
- Try counting backward: "We needed 10 teaspoons of sugar. If we use 5 for one pie, how many are left?"
- Introduce early multiplication language: "3 pies times 2 apples equals 6 apples total"

Cross-Curricular Connections:

- **Social Studies:** Discuss Thanksgiving traditions and family recipes across different cultures
- **Science:** Explore how ingredients change when baked (solid butter melts, apples soften)
- **Art:** Create paper pies using construction paper, labeling ingredient amounts

Hands-On Extension:

- **Recipe Card Math:** Bring in real recipe cards and practice skip counting ingredients for multiple servings
- **Dramatic Play:** Set up a bakery center with play food, measuring cups, and order forms
- **Cooking Together:** Make a simple no-bake recipe together, practicing measuring and counting (like Rice Krispies Treats)
- **Nature Walk Math:** Collect fall items (acorns, leaves, pine cones) and practice grouping and skip counting

FOR EDUCATORS: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TIPS

Whole-Class Instruction:

- Use the game on your interactive whiteboard for guided instruction
- Have students come up and drag ingredients or type answers
- Create a class chart: "Our Pie Ingredient Tracker" where students record total ingredients needed

Math Center Activity:

- Load the game on classroom tablets for independent or partner practice
- Pair strong skip counters with students still developing the skill
- Create a recording sheet where students draw the ingredient groups and write the total

Formative Assessment:

- **Observe:** Can students identify groups? Do they count by ones or skip count?
- **Listen:** Are students using skip counting language? ("I counted by 2s!")
- **Ask:** "How did you figure out the answer? Show me your thinking."

Differentiation:

- **Support:** Use the Practice Mode with full auto-counting support
- **On Level:** Use Practice Mode, encouraging students to count aloud before clicking

- **Challenge:** Switch to Challenge Mode where students input answers independently

FOR FAMILIES: CREATING JOYFUL LEARNING AT HOME

Setting the Scene:

This game is perfect for kitchen table learning during November! Make it part of your Thanksgiving preparation—talk about what dishes you're planning to make and practice counting ingredients together.

Learning Conversation Starters:

- "What ingredients do we need when we bake? Can you help me count them?"
- "If we're making cookies for 3 people and each person gets 2 cookies, how many do we need total?"
- "Let's skip count together while we set the table: 2, 4, 6, 8 forks!"

Making It Multisensory:

- Count ingredients aloud with rhythm and movement (clap, stomp, tap)
- Use real objects when possible (count actual apples, measure real sugar)
- Draw pictures of the groups if your child is a visual learner
- Act it out: "You be Pie 1, I'll be Pie 2, and your stuffed animal is Pie 3!"

Building Real-World Connections:

- Practice skip counting during daily routines: counting pairs of socks, counting by 5s with nickels
- Notice groups in your environment: wheels on cars, legs on chairs, windows on houses
- Involve your child in real meal prep: "We need 3 carrots for each person. How many do we need for our family?"

Celebrating Effort:

Focus on the learning process, not just correct answers. Say things like:

- "I love how you counted each group carefully!"
- "You tried skip counting! That's a new strategy!"
- "Mistakes help our brains grow. Let's try again together!"

WHY THIS ACTIVITY WORKS

Skip counting is a foundational skill that bridges counting and multiplication. By embedding practice in a meaningful, seasonal context (making Thanksgiving pies), students see math as purposeful and engaging. The visual grouping strategy supports early understanding of multiplication as "groups of," while the repetitive practice builds automaticity with number sequences.

The game's scaffolded design meets students where they are: Practice Mode provides full support for emerging counters, while Challenge Mode extends learning for students ready for independence. The immediate feedback and celebratory animations maintain motivation and make math feel rewarding.

For kindergarteners, this activity builds number sense and pattern recognition. For first graders, it introduces multiplicative thinking and efficient counting strategies—both critical foundations for future mathematical success.

ACCESS THE GAME

Play The Pie-Making Party at: <https://month.thence.us/pie-making-party-math-k-5th-thanksgiving-fun/>

Access the activity on any computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet connection.

This Month™ - Connecting Learning to the Calendar