

Bird Count

by Susan Edwards Richmond and Stephanie Fizer Coleman

AGE LEVEL 6–8 YEARS

About the Story

Bird Count Day takes place each winter when groups of people get together to conduct a bird census. Ava gets up early to join Mom and Big Al, her team leader, to find and count different kinds of birds. Ava learns to follow important rules about carefully counting the birds and accurately recording their number. She is learning to be a “citizen scientist” as she cooperates with others to get a census of birds in different places around the world. She learns a lot about many beautiful birds, too!



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Words to Learn

MATH AND SCIENCE WORDS

census, citizen scientist, science research, tally, hatch mark, slash mark, rare, scan, average, investigate

AVA WORD

Avis means bird in Latin!

About the Math

Reading *Bird Count*, your child can learn that:

- A census is a careful counting of important things, like birds or the population of people in different places.
- There are important rules to ensure that counting is accurate and reliable (that different counters get the same correct result).
- Often it's useful to use tallies to record the results of counting, but sometimes written numbers are preferable when counting many items.
- When counting results differ, an average gives a number showing what is a fair description of the combined results.



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Math Talk During Reading

ENGAGE YOUR CHILD IN CAREFUL COUNTING

Ask your child to check the number of the birds on different pages of the book.

TALK ABOUT THE RULES FOR COUNTING

Discuss why there are 10 teams, and why at least two people need to see or hear a bird before recording the number. “Why is it hard to know if you counted a bird twice?”

TALK ABOUT THE USE OF TALLIES

“Why did they use tallies rather than just write down the number? Why didn’t Ava use tallies to show the number of turkeys?”

TALK ABOUT USING THE CLOCK TO SHOW DIRECTION

Mom describes the location of the bird as “two o’clock.” Discuss what that means and ask your child to find the bird that meets that description.

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

TALLY OBJECTS AT HOME

In a notebook, count and tally the number of drawers, drawer handles, or objects in different colors in each room.

Mathical

BOOK PRIZE

The Mathical Book Prize recognizes math-inspiring literature for kids ages 2-18. Prize-winning books are selected by a committee of teachers, librarians, mathematicians, and others. To get the Mathical List, plus reading guides, book reviews, and more, see

mathicalbooks.org

PreK WINNERS:

Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke

Crash! Boom! A Math Tale
by Robie H. Harris

8: An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper

Have You Seen My Dragon? by Steve Light

Lia & Luis: Who Has More? by Ana Crespo

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller
by Kate Read

1 Smile, 10 Toes by Nelleke Verhoeff

ONE Very Big Bear by Alice Brière-Haquet

GRADES K-2 WINNERS:

Absolutely One Thing: Featuring Charlie and Lola by Lauren Child

The Animals Would Not Sleep
by Sara Levine

Max's Math by Kate Bank

Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Cheryl Bardoe

One Big Pair of Underwear by Laura Gehl

Pigeon Math by Asia Citro

Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s by Judy Cox

Uma Wimple Charts Her House
by Reif Larsen and Ben Gibson

PreK HONOR TITLES:

Animal Shapes by Christopher Silas Neal

Circle Under Berry by Carter Higgins

Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett

Count with Maisy, Cheep, Cheep, Cheep!
by Lucy Cousins

Goodnight, Numbers by Danica McKellar

I Know Numbers by Taro Gomi

Marta! Big and Small by Jen Arena

A Mousy Mess by Laura Driscoll

One Happy Tiger by Catherine Rayner

100 Bugs! A Counting Book by Kate Narita

One Is a Piñata: A Book of Numbers
by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Over in a River: Flowing Out to the Sea
by Marianne Berkes

Press Here by Hervé Tullet

Round by Joyce Sidman

Shape Up, Construction Trucks
by Victoria Allenby

What Will Fit? by Grace Lin

GRADES K-2 HONOR TITLES:

Billions of Bricks: A Counting Book about Building by Kurt Cyrus

Bird Count by Susan Edwards Richmond

The Boy Who Loved Math
by Deborah Heiligman

Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant
by Songju Ma Daemicke

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Helaine Becker

Counting the Stars: The Story of Katherine Johnson, NASA Mathematician
by Lesa Cline-Ransom

Count on Me by Miguel Tanco

The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca

How Many Jelly Beans? A Giant Book of Giant Numbers! by Andrea Menotti

Is 2 a Lot?: An Adventure with Numbers
by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans

Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer

Shapes, Reshape! by Silvia Borando
3x4 by Ivan Brunetti

We Are One: How the World Adds Up
by Susan Hood

When Sophie Thinks She Can't
by Molly Bang

Zero the Hero by Joan Holub

HALL OF FAME TITLES:

Anno's Counting Book, Mitsumasa Anno

Hippos Go Berserk! by Sandra Boynton

One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale
by Demi

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

