

Story: [The Doorbell Rang](#)

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Context: Mixed class in a rural primary school in Ireland

Age group: 6-7 year olds (Year 2)

Number of children in the class: 28

Learning intention: To introduce the concept of division (with remainders)

Key mathematical vocabularies: divide, share, remainder

Resources needed: The Doorbell Rang, print out of cookies, paper plates, recording sheet

Synopsis by the publisher

Ma has made a dozen delicious cookies. It should be plenty for her two children. But then the doorbell rings - and rings and rings. Each ring of the doorbell brings more friends to share the delicious cookies Ma has made.

Starter / Teaching input (15 mins):

To begin the lesson, I asked the children to say who liked chocolate and to say what their favourite chocolate was. I then showed the children the front cover of the book 'The Doorbell Rang' and got them to predict what the story was going to be about. I then read the story to the children stopping at key points to ask them questions, including:

- If Victoria and Sam share the sweets between them, how many cookies will each person get?
- If one more person comes, how many will there be now?
- How do you think they will share all the cookies?

Main activity (20 mins):

I then explained the main activity to the children. The children were arranged into groups of three, and were given the resources needed to complete their task. The children were given twelve cookie cut outs and a number of paper plates. They were also given a recording sheet. They then had to investigate with their team members how many cookies each person would get if there were two people at the table, three people at the table, four people at the table, etc. The children were encouraged to come up with the solution by dividing the cookie cut outs out onto the paper plates (see Figure 1). The children were also asked to record their results on the worksheet (see Figures 2 and 3).

Plenary (10 mins):

When the groups had completed their activity, I invited them back to the circle for a discussion. We went over the amount of cookies each person would get if there were two, three, four, etc. people at the table. I then asked the children what would happen to the two left over cookies when there were five people at the table. This generated great discussion among the children. I recorded the results of the activity on the Interactive Whiteboard and I asked the children if they could observe any pattern in the results (i.e. as the number of people increases, the amount of cookies that each person would get decreases).

Reflection:

The children loved this story and were really engaged as the story was being read to them. When it came to the main activity, the majority of the children were able to work out the problem although in some cases the groups struggled to understand what to do when there was a spare cookie left over. The idea of a remainder is a concept which would need to be explored further. The idea that the more people that were at the table resulted in a smaller amount of cookies for each person was a concept which most children easily grasped.



Figures:



Figure 1: Dividing the cookies

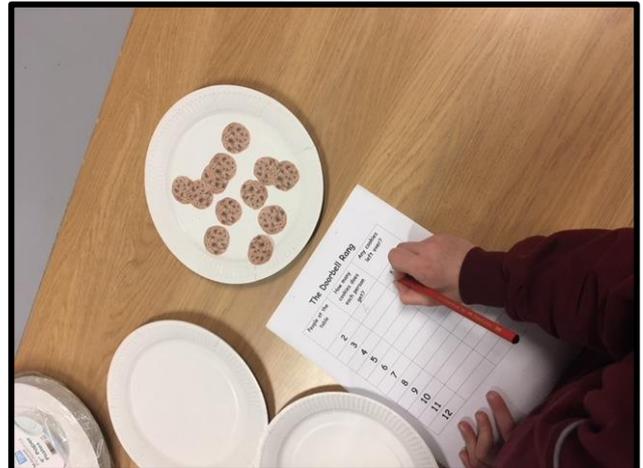


Figure 2: Children working on activity

| People at the table | How many cookies does each person get? | Any cookies left over? |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| 2 | 6 | 0 |
| 3 | 4 | 0 |
| 4 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 10 | 1 | 2 |
| 11 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | 1 | 0 |

Figure 3: Completed worksheet