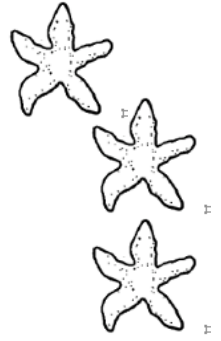


## Math Story Problems

Help support children's thinking with a variety of math story problems. Pose these problems in small math groups – let children draw and write about their ideas and encourage them to share their thinking with one another. Always bring the discussion back to the larger group so everyone has an opportunity to listen and learn.



### Example problems:

Ann saw 6 sea stars at the beach. There were 6 rays (arms) on each sea star. Ann wondered, "How many rays were there altogether?" Help Ann solve this problem.

Tom saw 15 sea stars. Eight (8) were blue and the rest were orange. How many orange sea stars did Tom see?

The aquarium had 2 octopuses in their tank. Each octopus has 8 arms (tentacles). How many arms (tentacles) do 2 octopuses have?

The class collected 16 mussel shells. They wanted to know how many mussels that would be (Hint: each bivalve has 2 shells).



**Note to teachers:** Change the numbers to reflect your individual student's number sense and understanding. Encourage children to draw, use fingers or represent numbers with what they choose. They can independently solve these math problems – reading the problem, repeating the problem and encouraging children to use their own ideas will be important.

Share the different strategies students used to solve each problem. This could be outlined on a chart or described in a sharing circle.