

Maria and 7 Magic Blue Stones¹

By Gary Clendenen

Once upon a time there was a 5 year old girl named Maria who loved to play. She loved to collect things and was excited when her best friend showed her a blue stone. Maria loved the color of the stone and asked "Could this be a magic stone? Maybe I will have good luck if I rub it."



She rubbed the stone 3 times and then her mother walked in with a glass of milk and a cookie. "It IS a good luck stone and I want more of them!" thought Maria.

Maria climbed up the 7 steps in her back yard and found another blue stone. So she had 1 stone from her friend and the 1 she found. Ahhh, she thought: " $1 + 1 = 2$. I have 2 blue stones."

How many more stones does she need to find to have 7 lucky stones?

Can you count to 20?

Can you count by 2s all the way to 20? For example, 2, 4, 6 ...

Maybe you can count to 20 by 3s. Here is how you begin: 3, 6, 9 ...

You might be able to count backwards from 20 all the way to 1, can you?

Is 1 the smallest number? Or, is there a number smaller than 1?



Maria hiked a short trail with a friend. Maria found 3 more blue stones.

How many stones does she have now? How many more does she need to have 7 stones?

Maria's friend Tomas said he would find more stones for her, but Maria said "No, I can find them myself." Sure enough, the next day as she and her father walked the dog, she found 2 more blue stones. Now she had 7 lucky blue stones.

Every morning for a week she rubbed all 7 lucky blue stones.

How many days are in a week?

Does every week have exactly the same number of days in it?

¹ Suggested Grades: 2 – 4 Skills: Number sense, addition and subtraction of integers, sequence of events, drawing, days in a week, comparison by weight, estimation, & comparison

After she rubbed all 7 lucky blue stones every day for a month, her father made a special meal and set the table. He said “We have something special to tell you.” Her mom and dad were smiling, the room was dark, candles were flickering and her mom’s eyes were big. It was very quiet. Shhhhh.....

Maria’s parents put their arms around her, looked at each other, and smiled. Maria said “What is going on?” Maria’s mother leaned close to her and said “You are going to have a baby sister. Your new baby sister will be here in 3 months.” Maria almost fell out of her chair with excitement. “Wow, a sister! I’m SO excited!”

Draw Maria’s mom? She is pregnant with a baby but her belly isn’t too large since the baby isn’t very big yet.

Weight is a measure of how heavy something is and it is usually measured in pounds or in kilograms. Maria is wondering how much the baby will weigh when it is born.

About how much do you weigh?

Would a new born baby weigh more than or less than you?

Which of these would weigh roughly the same as a new born baby: a horse, an ant, a car, a gallon of paint?

Guess how much Maria’s sister will weigh when she is born. No one knows how much a new baby will weigh for sure until it is born and the weight is measured. So, you are just guessing or estimating the weight.