

Party Time Lesson Plan

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Fall 2015



The Task

Andrew is planning a surprise birthday party for his dad. Sixty people will be at the party, and each table will seat 8 people. How many tables does Andrew need?

Andrew has 60 balloons to use for decorating the tables. If he wants every table to look exactly the same, how many balloons will be at each table?

Materials

- The tasks copied front to back
- Paper
- Scissors
- Unifix cubes or other manipulatives
- Large presentation paper
- Markers

Facilitating Task

- This task can be completed individually or in small groups of 3-4 students.
- Read the task together and answer clarifying questions.
- Make materials available to the students/groups.

If students work in groups:

- Give students individual think time before coming together.
- Each group will record the group's thinking and solution on the large presentation paper. They will present their findings to the class.

If students work individually:

- After solving, pair students to discuss and share strategies for 5-10 minutes.
- Select between 4 and 6 students with unique solution strategies to share with the class.
- Allow 15-20 minutes for sharing and connections.
- Begin with the most concrete strategy and move to the most abstract strategy. Ask questions to highlight connections between strategies.
- Wrap up the lesson with a discussion of these questions: How are these problems the same? How are they different? As a class, record observations about the role of remainders in division.

Misconceptions

- Remainder can be left out in first task.
- A table can be cut in half.
- Balloons can be divided.
- The two problems have the same answer because 60 divided by 8 equals 7R4.

Suggested Prompts or Questions

- What can Andrew do with the leftover people?
- What can Andrew do with the leftover balloons?
- How are these problems the same?
- How are they different?