**Birthday Candles Three Act Task**

**Big Idea:** Subtraction with numbers to 10 can be modelled concretely, pictorially, and symbolically to develop computational fluency.

**Curricular Competencies**:

**Reasoning and Analyzing**

* *use reasoning to explore and make connections*
* *estimating reasonably*
* *developing mental math strategies and abilities to make sense of quantities*
* *model mathematics in contextualized experiences and explore the utility of mathematics as a tool for solving real-life problems*

**Understanding and Solving**

* *visualizing to explore mathematical concepts*
* *develop, demonstrate and apply mathematical understanding through play, inquiry and problem solving.*
* *develop and use multiple strategies to engage in problem solving*

**Communicating and Representing**

* communicate mathematical thinking in many ways
* explain and justify
* represent mathematical ideas in concrete, pictorial, and symbolic forms

**Connecting and Reflecting**

* reflect on mathematical thinking
* connect mathematical concepts to each other

**Content:** Subtraction to 10; estimating sums and differences; using various strategies; using different models such as an open number line and ten frames; using subtraction in problem-based situations.

**ACT ONE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What did you notice? | What do you wonder? |
|  |  |

**FOCUS QUESTION:**

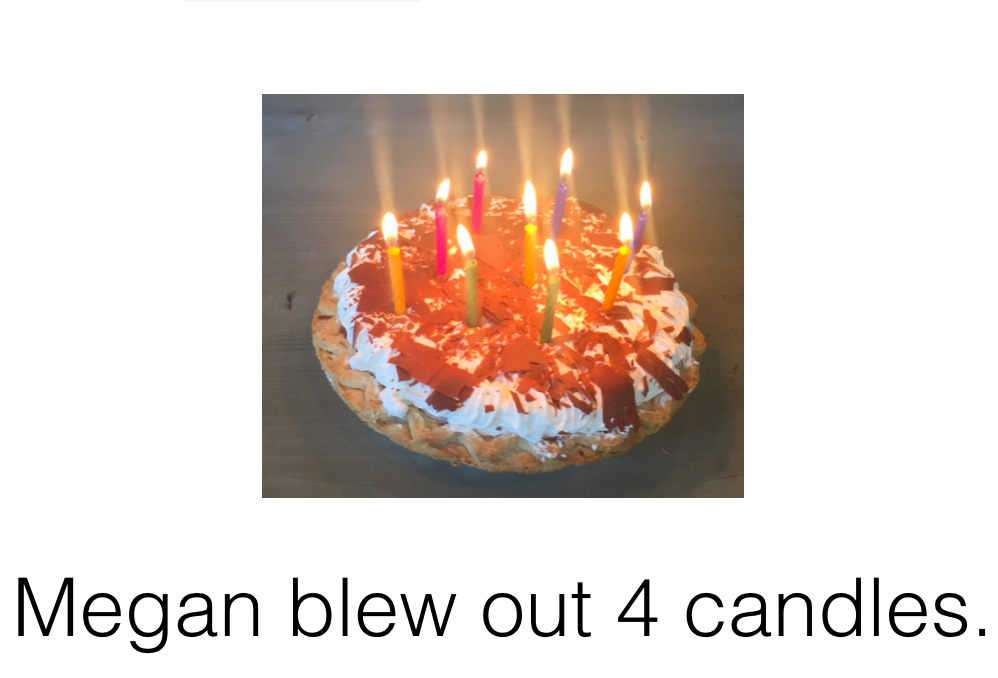
**How many candles were still lit?**

**Estimating**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A too low estimate: | A too high estimate: |
|  |  |

**ACT TWO:**

|  |
| --- |
| What else do you need to know to answer the question? What information would you like to have? |
| e.g., How many candles were there to start with?  How many candles were blown out? |

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**Provide students with materials they can use to model the problem. These could include:**

* ten-frames both empty to be used with counters and paper ten frames ones with dots that can be used represent the different addends
* unifix cubes
* counters all the same colour (e.g., pebbles)
* numbers (e.g., wooden, plastic, dice)
* number lines with and without numbers – e.g., open number lines
* paper, crayons and pencils

**Guiding questions for the teacher to consider:**

* How are students engaging in the problem solving?
* What do they notice? What do they wonder?
* Are the students able to ask questions?
* Once the students engage with problem, are they able to mathematically model the situation?
  + What tools/model to they select to represent the question? (e.g. ten frames, number lines, hundred’s chart, pictures, counters, equations)
  + Do they use labels to help communicate ideas?
* Are the students able to orally explain their thinking?
* When different strategies have been shared, are students able to make connections between similar strategies and the representations used?

**What STRATEGIES are being used?**

Make note of who uses which strategy and take pictures or video so that these can be shared with the class as a whole.

* + Who **added up**?
    - Did the student add up by ones?
    - Or add up in larger chunks?
    - Added 4 to get to 10 and added 1 more?
    - Uses a known fact (e.g., 5 + 6 = 11)?
  + Who **counted back (also known as removal)**?
    - Who counted back by ones?
    - Who counted back in chunks?

**ACT THREE:**

Gather the students as a whole class and share photos and videos taken via the projector with the class. Ask students to orally explain the strategies they used. Highlight, compare and connect the strategies students used.

**Sharing**

* Build a class anchor chart with the different strategies students used. Represent strategies using equations, the hundreds chart, and an open number line model. When using the hundred’s chart, see if students know the most efficient way to count back ten (e.g., go up one row)

**REVEAL the answer! – ACT THREE**

**Summarize the learning:**

**Self-Reflection:**

Strengths: What worked (What strategies did you use to work toward a solution)?

Stretches: What was difficult?

Next steps: What would you do differently next time? Was anyone inspired by someone else’s strategy?

**Moving Forward:**

Continue to explore different combinations of quantities to 10.