

Ten frames

Section 1: What is a ten frame?

A ten frame is a very simple structure which can be easily homemade, although there are commercial products available.

A basic structure of 5 x 2 cells which can hold objects.

The frame can be used horizontally (as shown) or vertically.

Each cell should be able to hold just one object, such as a counter, shell, stone, leaf, etc.

A ten frame can be made from the following everyday objects:

- A piece of cotton sheet with a ten frame drawn on it using a permanent marker pen
- A piece of paper or laminated card with a ten frame printed on it
- Drinking straws glued together and trimmed to make a grid shape
- Lolly sticks glued together to make a grid shape
- An egg box or tray with an arrangement of 5 x 2 spaces
- An ice-cube tray with an arrangement of 5 x 2
- Ten small congruent boxes without lids for larger objects in a 5 x 2 arrangement glued together
- A whiteboard with a ten frame drawn on it

The ten frame can be extended to a twenty frame by duplicating the ten frame. This is ideal for larger numbers, place value, early addition and subtraction. They can be placed horizontally (as shown) or vertically with a slight gap between each frame.

