Grade K-1: Using Ten Frames for Addition & Subtraction

A ten frame is a rectangle that is divided into 10 smaller boxes. You can draw a circle (or smiley face) inside each small box to represent one. This ten frame shows the number 6 because there are 6 smiley faces in 6 boxes.

To add two numbers smaller than 10, you can first draw circles (or smiley faces) in one color to show the first number and then draw circles in a different color to add the second number. Then, just count up all of the circles of both colors!

3 + 5 = ?

3 + 5 = 8!

To add 10 plus 10 or a smaller number, use two ten frames. When the first one is full of circles, that’s 10! Start counting on from 11 in the second frame.

10 + 4 = ?

10 + 4 = 14!

To subtract one number from another, start by filling in circles for the first (bigger) number. Then, cross out the number of circles you need to take away (the number that comes after the minus sign). 10 - 7 = ?

10 - 7 = 3!

For More on This Topic:
https://www.engageny.org/resource/addition-and-subtraction-with-ten-frames

Pima County Public Library Website: https://www.library.pima.gov
Infoline: (520) 791-4010