

# Thursday Challenge 3



## THURSDAY'S THINKING

### Partners Scoop & Count

#### Overview

Here is a third version of the Scoop & Count activity. Students work in pairs to estimate and count small collections of math bucket items. This session could take 30 minutes or more. You may want to skip the normal calendar routines or another part of your math instruction today. We've included this to engage individual students, knowing that some of them may still have difficulty writing the numbers or making reasonable estimates. They'll get better with experience and this is an opportunity to see what they can (and can't) do.

#### You'll need

- ★ about 45 single Unifix cubes in a bag or basket
- ★ the buckets of bugs, sea creatures, buttons, and frogs
- ★ Counting Mat (Blackline NC I6, run 6–8 copies for every 2 students)
- ★ Student Book, page 21
- ★ pencils
- ★ hard writing surfaces for each student

#### Skills

- ★ estimating how many
- ★ refining estimates
- ★ counting totals
- ★ recording totals



***Note** Divide the contents of each math bucket into 3 or 4 smaller sets of 25 to 35 objects. Package the buttons in sets of about a third of a cup each. Put each collection into a ziplock or other small container. You'll need 10 to 15 collections of objects, depending on your class size. If you don't have math buckets, use other small countable objects divided into sets of 25 to 35. Unifix cubes, pattern blocks, tiles, buttons, and other small math manipulatives work quite well.*

Begin the lesson by showing children Number Corner Student Book, page 21. Explain that this is an estimation activity similar to the one you did last Thursday. You are going to work on the first section of the sheet together. Once children understand how to use the sheets, you'll send them off in pairs to do the other two sections on their own.

Distribute sheets and pencils. With a stack of 6 to 8 counting mats in full view, pour your bag of Unifix cubes out on the floor where everyone can see them. Ask children to estimate how many cubes there are in the pile.

Encourage children to think about how many counting mats the Unifix cubes might fill. This helps them maintain some sense of the size of their estimates in relation to the quantity they can see.