



MathStart®

Tally O'Malley

Tallying

Level 2 Ages 6+

Activity Ideas

Tally marks are a useful tool for children to keep track as they count, and for data collection. Grouping tally marks also reinforces counting by fives.

The O'Malleys are driving to the beach for vacation. Eric, Bridget, and little Nell are getting bored in the back seat, so Mom suggests a Tally game. They decide to count cars on the highway. Each of the kids picks a color—silver for Eric, blue for Bridget, and red, as always, for Nell—while Mom sets the timer. Eric trounces the competition and gets to wear the Shamrock medal. And his sister dubs him "Tally O'Malley!" But will he be able to hang on to the title when they tally t-shirt colors while waiting in line for ice cream, or tally train cars? Illustrated by Cynthia Jabar.

- Reread the story and have your child or students keep track of the data with their own tally marks. Make a chart with each of the characters' names, the colors they choose, and their tallies. Occasionally stop to see how the children's tally marks compare with the marks in the book.
- Say a number between 10 and 25 and ask your child or students to make tally marks to represent that number.
- Pizza Survey: Have your child or students take a survey, asking family, friends, and neighbors: "What kind of pizza do you like best?" Then work together to tally the responses. What kind of pizza is most popular? Least popular?

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