

## Squabbling squirrels

**Focus of activity:** Halving even numbers up to 12.

### Working together: conceptual understanding

- Show children two teddies and a bowl of 8 grapes (or other food item). Give a small bowl to each teddy. *These two teddies are going to share the grapes.* Put 6 in one bowl and 2 in the other. *Is this fair?* Ask children to help you to move the grapes so that it is fair. Point out that the two teddies now have the same number of grapes each. *They have half of the grapes each. Before they didn't have half and it wasn't fair.* Write half of 8 is 4.
- Empty the teddies' bowls. Show a bowl of 6 grapes. Ask children to give each teddy half of the grapes. *To have half, they must each have the same number of grapes. That will be fair.* Write half of 6 is 3.
- Repeat, this time sharing 12 grapes between the two teddies.

### Up for a challenge?

*Two teddies each have 4 grapes. What is double 4? Show with the grapes if necessary. So, double 4 is 8, and half of 8 is 4.*

*Half of 6 is 3. What is double 3? Show with the grapes if necessary.*

### Now it's the children's turn:

- Children shuffle a set of even 2 to 12 cards, take one and share that number of acorns between two squabbling squirrels. They fill in a halving number sentence. Repeat for as many cards as they can.
- Go round the group and mark their halving statements as they fill them in, e.g. initially after two examples. Do they understand that both halves need to have the same number of acorns?

### S-t-r-e-t-c-h:

If children cope well, ask them to say some doubles to go with their halving statements, e.g. half of 4 is 2, so double 2 is 4.

### Things to remember

*Remember that the same number must be in each half – it must be fair.* Ask children to show double 1 by holding up a thumb on each hand. *What is half of 2?* They then show double 2 by holding up a thumb and forefinger on each hand. *What is half of 4?* Repeat for double 3, 4 and 5 asking children for the corresponding halves.

*You may want to add something that has emerged from the activity. This may refer to misconceptions or mistakes made.*

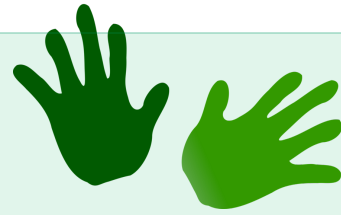
Resources	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two teddies, one large bowl and two smaller bowls, 12 grapes (or other food type)</li><li>• 2 to 12 even number cards</li><li>• Picture of two squirrels (see child instructions)</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Children can find half of even numbers up to 12.</li><li>2. Children begin to relate doubling and halving.</li></ol>

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### Work in pairs

#### Things you will need:

- Number cards (2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12)
- Picture of two squirrels
- 12 acorns (or cubes)
- A pencil



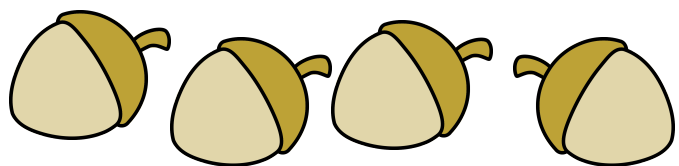
#### What to do:

Two squirrels have dug up some acorns. They need to have half each or they will squabble!

- Shuffle the number cards.
- Take a card. Take that number of acorns.
- Give half to each squirrel.
- Write how many acorns they get each.
- Repeat for as many cards as you can.

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#### **S-t-r-e-t-c-h:**

Say some doubles to go with your halves, e.g. half of 4 is 2, so double 2 is 4.

#### Learning outcomes:

- I can find half of even numbers up to 12.
- I am beginning to relate doubling and halving.

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