Mrs Muddle

Setting the context

Mrs Muddle is a baker. She works in a busy bakery making bread and cakes. Unfortunately, as her name suggests, Mrs Muddle often muddles things up! Mrs Muddle would like the children to help her sort out her latest muddle. This morning a lady phoned the bakery to order five cakes for her daughter's fifth birthday party. She asked for each cake to be decorated with five cherries. Unfortunately Mrs Muddle forgot this and put a different number of cherries on each cake. Mrs Muddle has not got time to make any more cakes, but she has a plan. She has cut each cake into four pieces and is going to try and put the pieces back together in a different way so that there are five cherries on each cake.

Problem

Arrange the pieces of cake to make five cakes, each with five cherries on top.



Objectives

To solve mathematical problems or puzzles. To understand the operation of addition and the related vocabulary.

You will need

Five paper plates; red tissue paper; an apron and/or chef's hat; cut-up sets of the 20 cake

pieces from photocopiable page 75 for each group.

Preparation

Paint or colour the paper plates brown to represent cakes. Stick balls of tissue (cherries) onto the cakes (see diagram). Cut each cake into guarters.



