



Page 1 of 6 · Bubbles by the Path

A rolling wave has scattered the lagoon stepping stones and separated a school of little fish. Cereal-Swimmer finds a trail of bubbles beside the first stone. Octo-Pop taps each bubble while they count the starting place on their watery number line.



Page 2 of 6 · A Hop Forward

Two fish peek from behind the next stepping stones and join the group already waiting. Cereal-Swimmer starts from the number they have reached and hops forward twice. Counting on saves the friends from beginning the whole bubble trail again.



Page 3 of 6 · The Hidden Stone

Another wave washes over the path and hides one numbered stone beneath foamy water. The stones on either side remain visible, so Octo-Pop holds the line steady while Cereal-Swimmer follows the forward sequence to identify the covered number.



Page 4 of 6 · A School in a Tangle

The rescued fish follow arrows painted along the stones, but the school suddenly bunches into a silvery knot. Cereal-Swimmer checks which way each fish is facing. One swimmer is not following the forward direction and must turn to rejoin the line.



Page 5 of 6 · Spaces by the Gate

Seven fish reach the old lagoon gate, but its number line has more spaces to fill before it will open. Octo-Pop gathers the remaining swimmers while Cereal-Swimmer counts forward from seven to discover the missing part needed to reach ten.



Page 6 of 6 · The Last Number

The fish settle beside the restored stones, and the coral garden glows beyond the gate. One final space remains after seven, eight, nine. Cereal-Swimmer and Octo-Pop must name the number that completes the line and brings the whole school home.

Questions for Cereal-Swimmer and the Number-Line Lagoon

Read the story together first. Use one question at each page, then the question at the end. Answers are below the dotted line: fold them under or cover them while reading.

Page 1 · Bubbles by the Path

Count the bubbles.

Choices: 4 · 5 · 6

Page 2 · A Hop Forward

Five and two more make how many?

Choices: 6 · 7 · 8

Page 3 · The Hidden Stone

Which number is missing?

Choices: 3 · 4 · 6

Page 4 · A School in a Tangle

Which fish is out of order?

Choices: The backward fish · The first fish · The striped fish

Page 5 · Spaces by the Gate

Seven needs how many more to make ten?

Choices: 2 · 3 · 4

Page 6 · The Last Number

Which number finishes the line?

Choices: 9 · 10 · 11

After reading

How can you add two to five without starting again at one?

Answers (fold under before reading)

Page 1: 5. Five bubbles float by the first stone.

Page 2: 7. Five and two make seven.

Page 3: 4. Four belongs between three and five.

Page 4: The backward fish. The backward fish was breaking the direction pattern.

Page 5: 3. Seven and three make ten.

Page 6: 10. Ten completes the lagoon line.

After reading: Start at five and count two more steps: six, seven. The number line helps you keep your place.