



12 days of christmas

ARITHMETIC TASK

How many gifts did your true love give you on the 1st day of Christmas?

By the 2nd day, how many total gifts had you received?

How many total gifts had you received by the 3rd day? How about the 4th day?

Organize your data in a table. Do you see a pattern in the data? Describe the relationship in words or symbols. How do you know your pattern works?

Use the relationship to predict how many total gifts you had received by the 6th day. Test your prediction.

Use your relationship to write a number sentence that tells the total amount of gifts you received for all 12 days.

For teachers to think about...

Why is this task algebraic?
How might your students solve this problem?
What would be their challenges?

What strategies did students use?
What generalizations did they make?
How did they justify their thinking?
How did they model the problem?

