

ACTIVITY 10.17**Fair Shares for Two**

Tell a story about two twin sisters (or brothers). The twins always shared whatever they had equally. If they found some pretty seashells, they would count them out and share them so that each had the same number of shells. When Mom gave them cookies for lunch, they would be sure that each got the same number of cookies. Sometimes they were not able to share things fairly because there would be something left over. This happened once when Dad brought them five marbles. (Discuss why they could not share five marbles equally.) Whenever there was a leftover, the twins put the extra item in a special box of "leftovers" that they decided to keep for their baby brother.

After discussing the way that the twins shared things, ask children to find out what numbers of things they could share fairly and what numbers would have a leftover when they shared them. Assign three or four numbers from 6 to 40 to pairs of students. The task is to decide which of their numbers could be shared and which would have a leftover. Provide counters to help them in their decision. Collect the information and make lists of numbers that can be shared and those that will have a leftover. Examine the lists as a class and ask for observations. Select numbers not in the list and ask if students can tell which list they belong in and why they think so.

From Van de Walle, J. A. & Lovin, L.H. (2006). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades K – 3*. Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 292).