

Blast Off!

A Whole Group Counting Game

By Heidi Butkus

Directions for "Blast Off!":

1. Before you begin, mix up the cards. Make sure that one "Blast Off!" card is at the end of the stack. Place the cards in a large zip lock bag, with a dark piece of paper in the front of the stack, so that no one can see which card is coming next. You may wish to duplicate multiple copies of the cards to make the game last longer.
2. This game is played whole group. The teacher stands in front of the class, with the children all standing up in their places.
3. To play, the teacher should pull one card out of the bag, and read the numbers aloud to the children, pausing at the end where the space is. The children should all tell what number is coming next at the end of the line.
4. When a "Blast Off!" card is pulled out, the children all say, "Blast off!" and the teacher should move from the front of the room to the next side of the classroom. The children should turn and face the teacher. Each time a "Blast Off!" card is pulled, the teacher moves to the next side of the room, with the kids turning to face the teacher each time. This should put different children in the front row each time the class changes the direction that they face. It will give the teacher a chance to see if all of the children are counting correctly, and will also probably cause a few giggles as well!
5. The game ends when the last card is revealed, (which should be a "Blast Off!" card,) and the class is back facing the front of the room in their usual spots- assuming that you teach in a room with four sides! For more fun, vary the number of "Blast Off!" cards that you put into the deck each time so that the children will not know how many of them to expect. Then, proclaim the first row (the row that winds up closest to the teacher at the end of the game) to be the winner!

15, 16, 17, 18, 19, _____

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, _____

35, 36, 37, 38, 39, _____

45, 46, 47, 48, 49, _____

55, 56, 57, 58, 59, —

65, 66, 67, 68, 69, _____

75, 76, 77, 78, 79, _____

85, 86, 87, 88, 89, —

95, 96, 97, 98, 99, —

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, —

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, _____

16, 17, 18, 19, 20, —

26, 27, 28, 29, 30, _____

36, 37, 38, 39, 40, _____

46, 47, 48, 49, 50, _____

56, 57, 58, 59, 60, _____

66, 67, 68, 69, 70, _____

76, 77, 78, 79, 80, _____

86, 87, 88, 89, 90, —

91, 92, 93, 94, 95, _____

22, 23, 24, 25, 26, _____

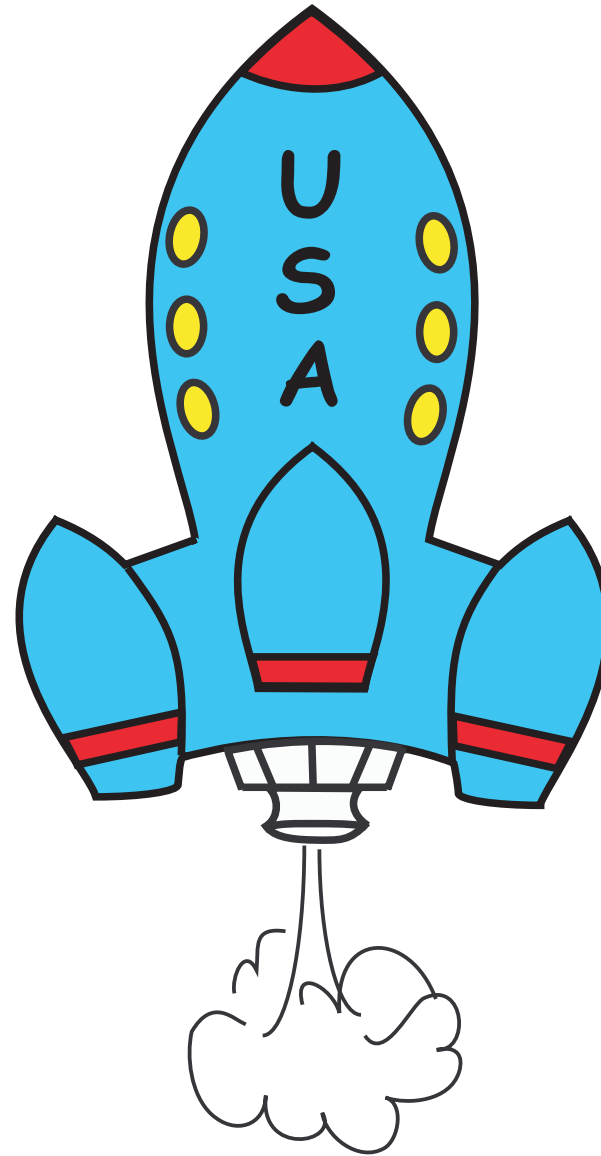
33, 34, 35, 36, 37, —

43, 44, 45, 46, 47, _____

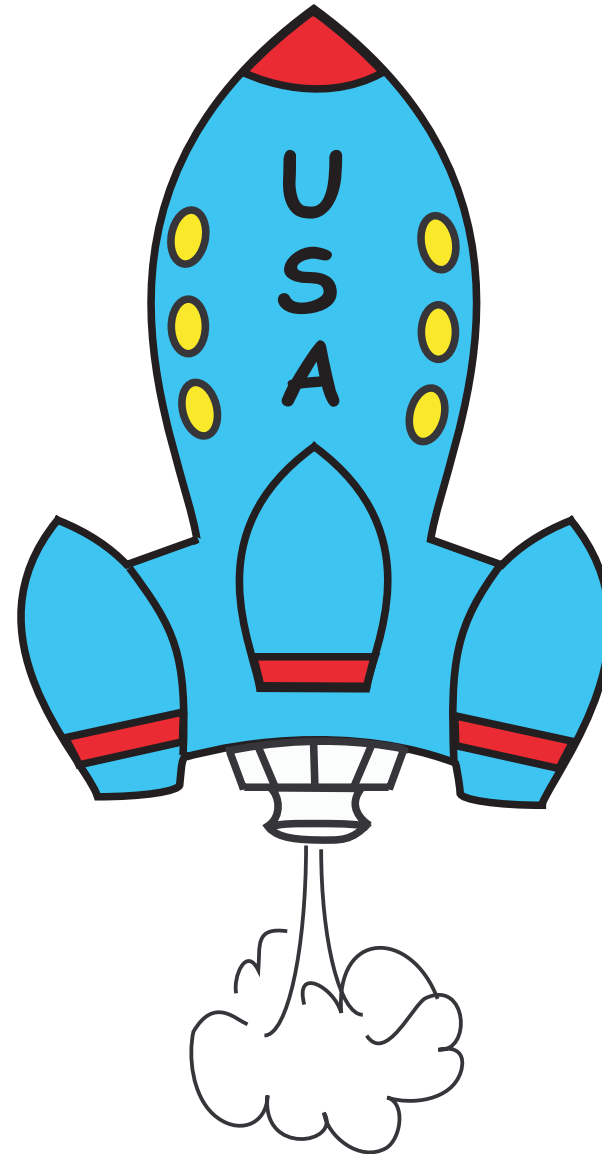
54, 55, 56, 57, 58, _____

61, 62, 63, 64, 65, _____

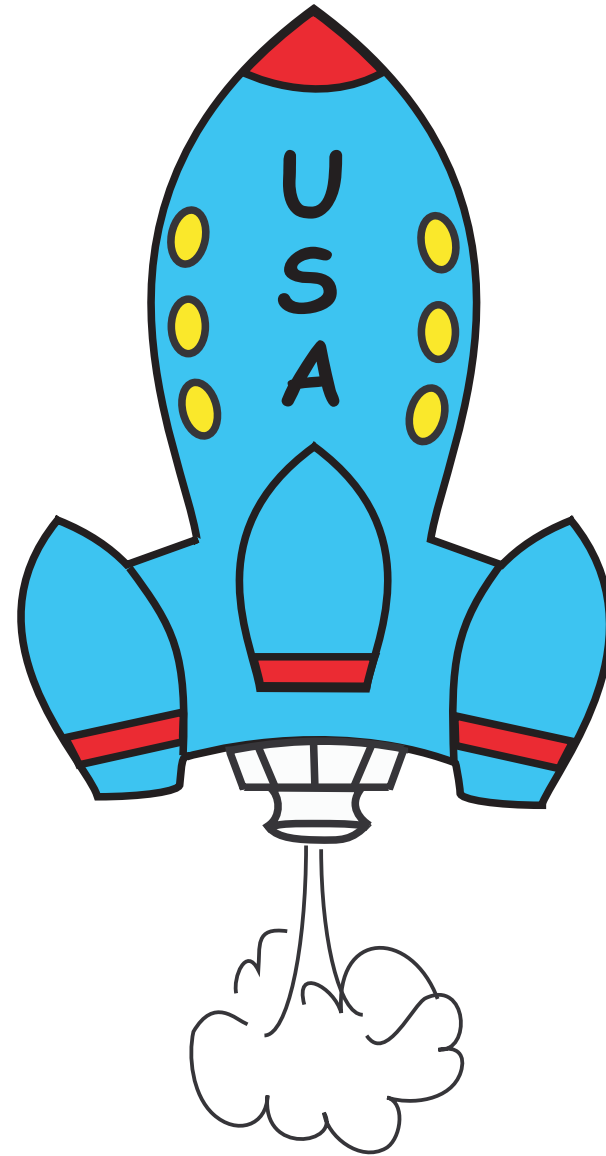
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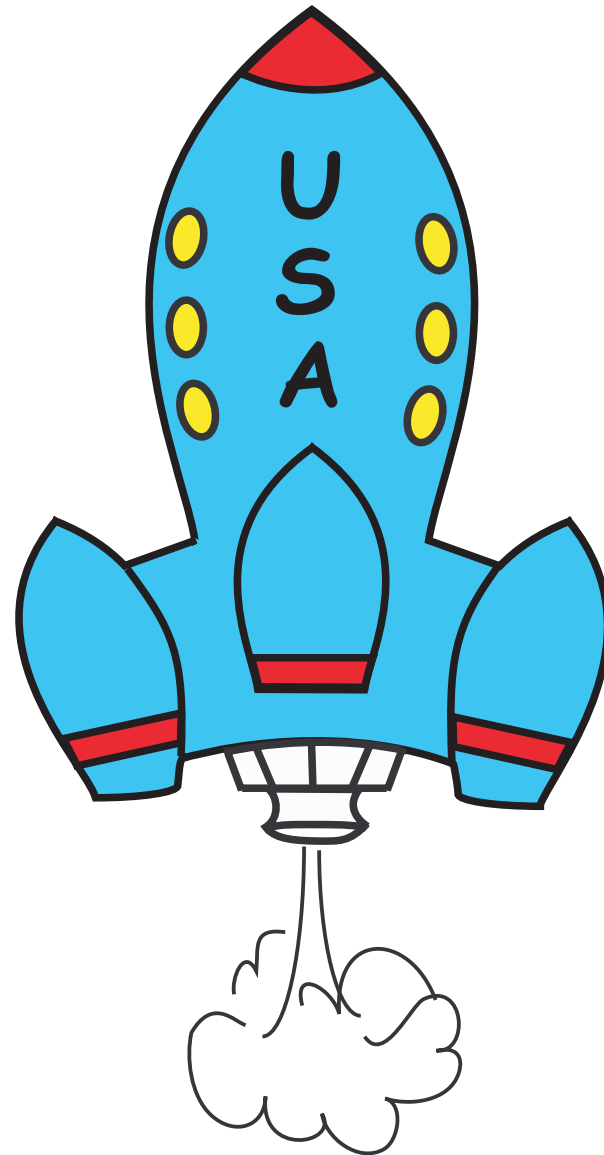
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