



# Polyphemus' sheep

## Activity sheet

- **Target group:** 6+ years old
- **Duration:** 20 minutes
- **Material needed:** sand numbers, printed sheep and printed figurines
- **Key competence:** numeracy

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Develop numeracy skills related to addition and subtraction. The aim is to anchor these mathematical notions within the story.

The different materials provide some concrete elements that foster a multisensorial approach.

Pupils can resort to sand numbers to provide their answer if it can ease their numeracy expression.

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### 1. Step 1: preparation

Show the activity to the students and explain it. Organise pairs or groups of students. Designate Player 1 and Player 2. - Explain the role of each player.



## 2. Step 2: addition

Odysseus and his crew are trying to trick Polyphemus to escape the island. They dress as sheep and join the herd. Player 1 closes their eyes, while player 2 adds the number of sheep they want to the herd.

Player 2 has to find how many sheep have joined the herd.

## 3. Step 3: subtraction

Polyphemus is very hungry. He decides to eat the sheep. Player 1 closes their eyes, while player 2 removes the number of sheep they want.

Player 2 has to find how many sheep have disappeared.

You can also complexify the exercise by adding humans' characters. Polyphemus is so hungry that he also decides to eat the crew. How many members are left?

## POTENTIALS FOR AAC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

This activity enables the creation of meaning-making processes. By using visual elements previously encountered in the story (the sheep, the Cyclops, the crew...), children make bridges between the different aspects and develop the knowledge acquired through the first phase of the box's implementation (encounter of the text).

The sand numbers provide another level of interaction by enabling them to designate the numbers obtained through addition and subtraction. Plus, the sand numbers ease the way into decoding numbers for children with Specific Learning Disorders.



## TO GO FURTHER

For children finding the exercise too easy, you can easily adapt it by creating some multiplication and division.

You can also ask children to write down the calculations to add some complexity to the exercises.

For pupils already entering the reading, you can ask them to pair the number of sheep with papers containing the written number in letters.

