

Lambs' legs

Annotation

Tania identifies equal groups of four. She solves this multiplication problem by making each leg visible then counts them all starting from one. She considers each leg one at a time in her drawing and when counting them. Tania describes her actions and explains her thinking.

Problem: Lamb's legs

The teacher shows the student this picture and poses this problem:

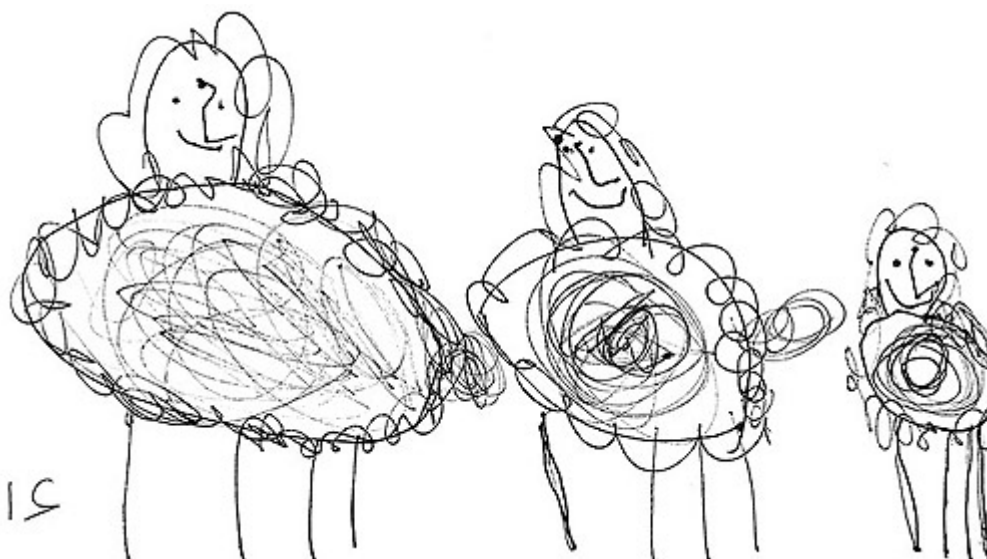
How many legs do the three lambs have altogether?



Student response

Tania: Twelve.

Tania draws a picture of three lambs. She then counts each leg one at a time, starting at one and writes 12 on her picture.



Teacher: What do you know that helped you?

Tania: I know that each sheep has the same number of legs.

Teacher: Tell me why you did it that way.

Tania: I drew the lambs so you can see the four legs on each sheep. In the picture you can't see all of the legs. You can't count them if you can't see them.