Museum Maths

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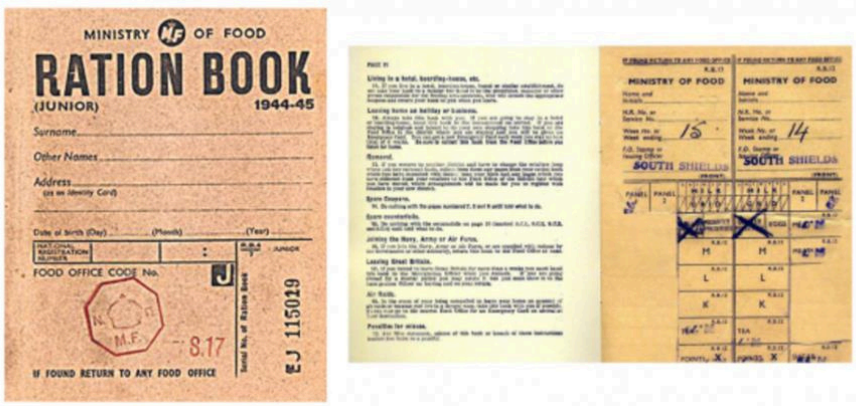
Theme of the Week - Rationing



During the Second World War, the UK government put a practice into place called rationing. Rationing meant that there was a limit on how much of something you were able to buy. It also meant that the things you liked the most, like chocolate, were not allowed to be purchased and eaten whenever you liked. Every person would be given a ration book, which had tokens inside to use when purchasing items. Once the tokens had been used up, you would have to wait until the next ration books were issued! As a result, many people would grow their own fruit and vegetables to sustain their families, and some would keep animals such as pigs, chickens and rabbits in their gardens! You might want to trade certain food items with neighbours to ensure everyone had a fair amount –and of course, this could involve some maths to make sure everyone got their share!

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Activity 1

Can you use your numeracy skills to figure out the answers to these questions?

i. Pauline keeps 4 chickens in her back garden. They each lay 3 eggs a week. How many eggs will Pauline have after two weeks?

ii. Trevor has been given his cheese ration for the week. He has 200g. He wants to make the cheese last for 5 days. What fraction of the cheese would he have per day? How many grams would he have each day?

iii. Trevor has decided to trade with Pauline. For 1/4 of his 200g of cheese, Pauline will give him 2 eggs. How many grams of cheese is Trevor trading away?

iv. If Trevor trades all of his cheese at 1/4 a day with Pauline, how many eggs would he receive that week?

v. Sonia picks up her monthly ration of sweets. She gets 300g. If she saves up her sweets for a whole year, how many grams would she have?

vi. After a year of saving her sweets, Sonia decides to split them up to share with her siblings. She has 2 brothers and 1 sister and wants some sweets for herself. How many grams of sweets will they each get? Show your answer as a fraction. Try and simplify the fraction if you can.

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Activity 2

Joseph and Florence have a small farm. They want to make the most of the space that they have and fill it with pigs, chickens and rabbits. Their farm is 18m x 12m. They have a list of requirements:

- They want at least 2 pigs –pigs need a 6x6 space.
- They want less than 10 chickens –chickens need a 3x3 space.
- They want more rabbits than any other animals –rabbits need a 2x2 space.

Hint: On the next page, you will find a scaled-down grid and animal icons. You can print these out and use them to work out how many animals you can fit! We have also have a resources page which includes icons for all the questions –so that you can print them out and use them to help you work out the answers.

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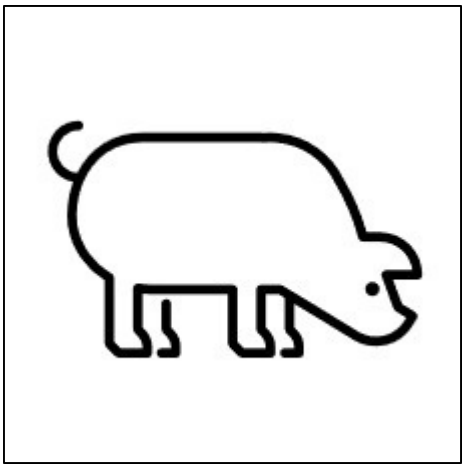

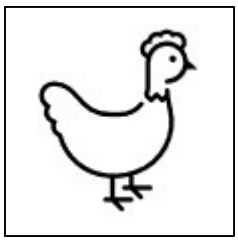

Well done!

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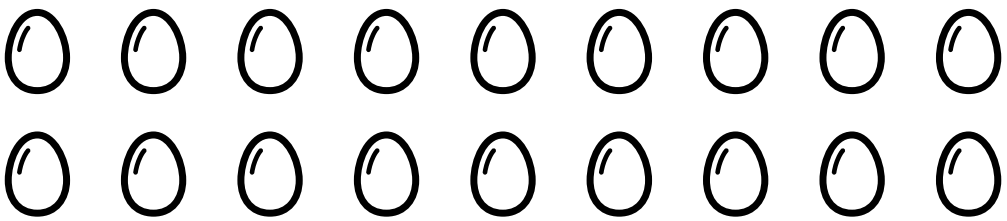
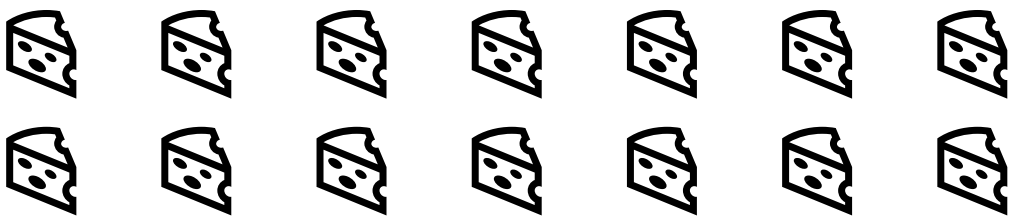
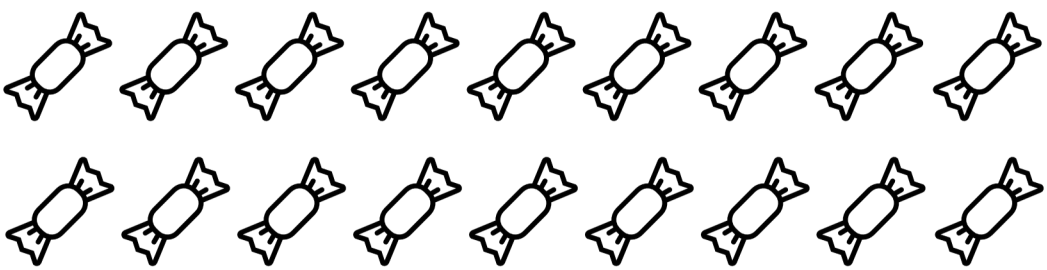
You might find it easier to print out images for each of the questions –you can give each image a value and use them to count!







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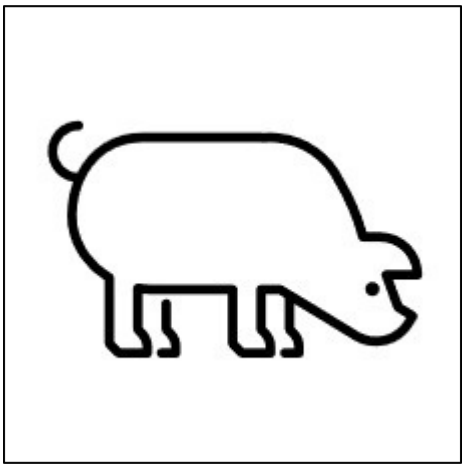
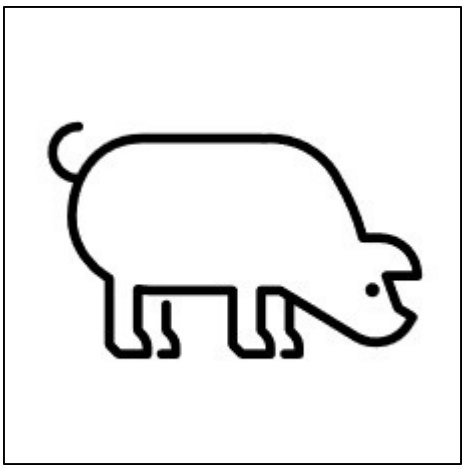
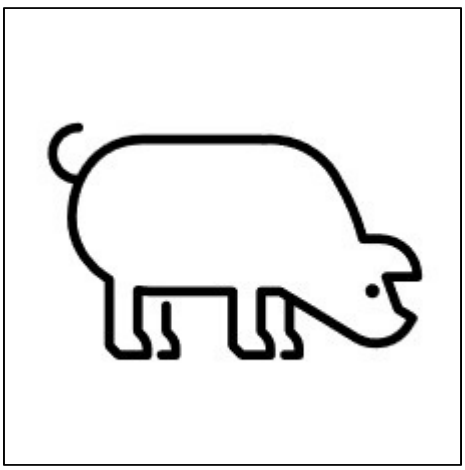
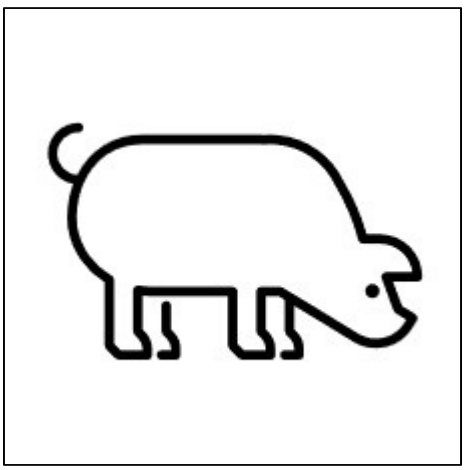

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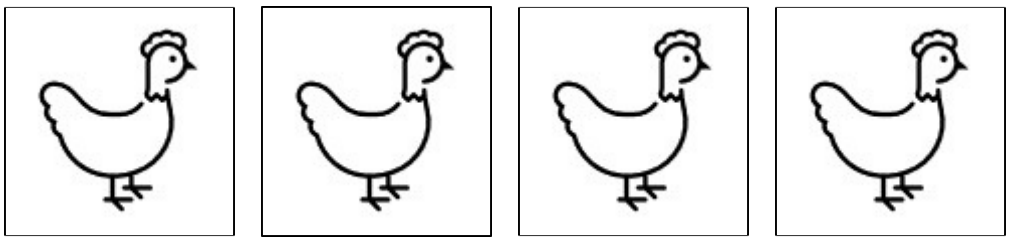

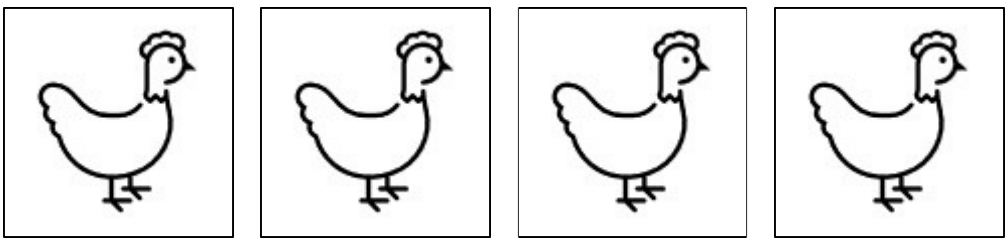

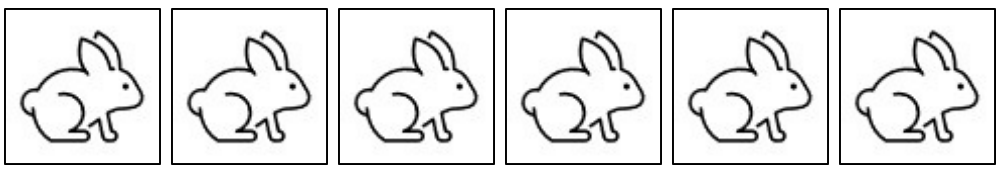

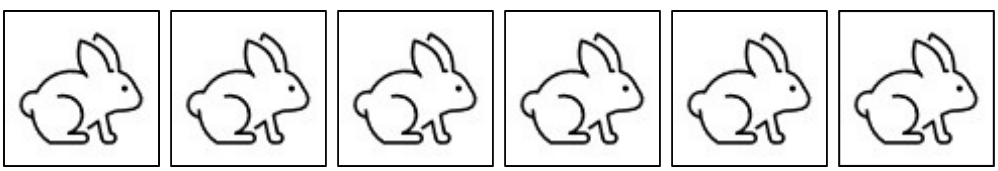

Activity 1 answers: i) 24, ii)1/5, 40g, iii) 50g, iv) 8 eggs, v) 3600g, vi) 3600/4 or 900
Activity 2 answers: 3 pigs, 6 chickens, 9 rabbits. Other variations permitted if it matches the criteria listed in the question.

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