

# Centipede

**Focus** Cardinal numbers; concentration

**Level**



**Duration** 20 minutes

**Materials** None

**Rationale** *A group process:* The cardinal numerals are taught or revised in an appealing, playful way. Everyone is necessarily involved.

## Preparation

Decide where you are going to do this activity. You will need enough space for the centipede to move along. In the classroom, this may be a long, wavy line around the desks.

## Procedure

- 1 Draw a simplified version of a centipede on the board. Tell your pupils that this animal is a great walker with all its feet. It walks miles and miles. Then ask:  
*How many feet does a centipede have?*
- 2 Immediately start counting in chorus:  
*One, two, three, four, etc.*  
Decide where to stop – in initial stages, probably at 20.
- 3 Then teach the following chant:  
*One mile on foot, keep going, keep going.*  
*One mile on foot, keep going till you stop.*
- 4 Now ask the pupils to stand in a long line. Everyone starts walking and chanting the chant above.
- 5 At the end, everyone stops, adds the next numeral, and says, *One, two*, but when the words *miles on foot, keep going, etc.* are said, the line of children starts walking again.
- 6 When this verse has come to an end, everyone stands still again and counts: *One, two, three* (then starting moving again) *miles on foot, keep going, etc.*
- 7 Then count to four, etc.

- 8 In other words, when they are counting, everybody stands still, and when they are saying the rest of the verse, everybody walks to the rhythm of the words.
- 9 The pupils move like a centipede through the classroom. The first pupil is the head of the centipede. He or she leads the way. The last pupil is the tail.

## Extension

After some lessons, the pupils will be able to count as far as 100.

Pupils can write the verse in their notebooks in the shape of a centipede.