

## Trend Task:

## Counting Counters

Approach: Station

Year: 4 &amp; 8

Focus: Constructing a table

Resources: Bag of counters (8 large: 3 red, 3 blue, 2 yellow; 6 small: 2 red, 1 blue, 3 yellow), ruler

## Questions / instructions:

Here is a bag of red, blue and yellow counters.  
Some of them are big and some are small.

Draw a table that shows how many of each colour  
are big and how many of each colour are small.

table format used  
(6 cells, in 3 by 2 arrangement)

	Big	Small
Red	3	2
Blue	3	1
Yellow	2	3

Labelled rows/columns  
for:

big and small

red, blue and yellow

Six numbers, all correct,  
formatted as:

digits

tallies or dots



Total score:

	5	4	3	2	0-1
Year 4	8 (5)	4 (4)	8 (7)	13 (9)	66 (75)
Year 8	18 (16)	11 (8)	12 (6)	16 (11)	43 (58)

% response  
2007 ('03)

year 4 year 8

15 (12) 35 (29)

22 (16) 39 (36)

28 (15) 43 (38)

25 (20) 38 (23)

8 (5) 21 (18)

## Subgroup Analyses:

Year 4

Score  
Range

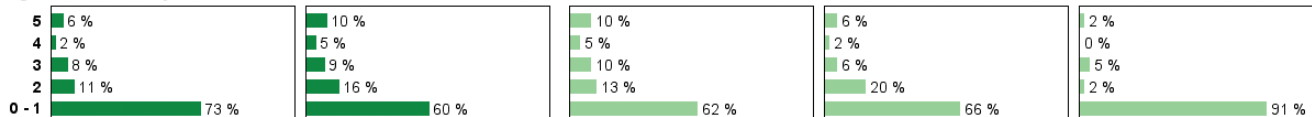
Boys

Girls

Pakeha

Māori

Pasifika



Year 8

Score  
Range

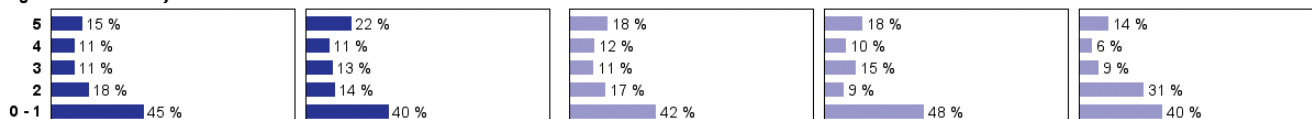
Boys

Girls

Pakeha

Māori

Pasifika



## Commentary:

Children at both year 4 and year 8 had difficulty with this task, although there was considerable growth from year 4 to year 8. Many recorded the information but not in an efficient table. There was a little improvement from 2003 to 2007 at year 8 level. Pakeha and Māori students performed comparably, with Pasifika students a little lower, on average.