

# Learning Activity for 100 Coconuts

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Objective:** The students will work with Base 10 blocks to help in understanding subtracting across zeros.

**Materials:** Base 10 blocks; hundreds, tens, ones WorkMat; several items priced less than \$1

### 100 COCONUTS

Sung:

One hundred coconuts in a tree  
My mama says please bring some home to me  
I can't reach the coconuts from the ground  
So I've got to shake them down

Ten lovely branches way out of reach  
And ten coconuts are hanging on each  
That's one hundred coconuts there in all  
Way up in the tree so tall

Shake them down, shake them down  
Shake the coconuts, shake them down  
Shake them down, shake them down  
Shake the coconuts down

What if I shook nine coconuts down?  
So nine coconuts are lyin' on the ground  
Then how many coconuts would there be  
Left up in the coconut tree?

Spoken:

Well, if I shake nine coconuts down from one of the branches of ten coconuts, there's one coconut left on that branch, and there are nine branches that still have ten coconuts each. That's ninety plus one, so ninety-one coconuts will be left in the tree.

Sung:

What if I shake twelve coconuts down?  
That's twelve coconuts, all ripe, round and brown  
Then how many coconuts would there be  
Left up in the coconut tree?

Spoken:

Well, twelve coconuts is two plus ten, so two coconuts come from one branch, leaving eight coconuts on that branch, and ten coconuts come from one branch, leaving none on that branch, and there are eight branches that still have ten coconuts each. That's eighty plus eight, so eighty-eight coconuts will be left.

Sung:

Shake them down, shake them down  
Shake the coconuts, shake them down  
Shake them down, shake them down  
Shake the coconuts down

What if I shake as hard as I can  
And fifty-three coconuts land on the sand  
Then how many coconuts would there be  
Left up in the coconut tree?

Spoken:

Fifty-three coconuts is three plus fifty. So three coconuts come from one branch, leaving seven coconuts on that branch. And fifty is five branches of ten with no coconuts left. That leaves four branches with ten coconuts each. That's forty plus seven, so forty seven coconuts left. I bet I'll get them next time.

Sung:

Shake them down, shake them down  
Shake the coconuts, shake them down  
Shake them down, shake them down  
Shake the coconuts down

### Procedure:

- 1) Play the song.
- 2) Students place one flat Base 10 block in the hundreds place.
- 3) Follow along with the song. Stop after each spoken verse to model each situation on the workMat. Replace the flat with rods and units as needed.
- 4) Teacher will write several subtraction expressions on the board for students to model on their workMat.

**Evaluation:** Teacher observation. Choose 5 different 2-digit numbers to subtract from 100 to demonstrate an understanding of regrouping with zeros with Base 10 blocks. Extension: Give students \$1.00 to spend on an item. Students will work with coins to show regrouping by making change.