



# Math Fundamentals PoW

The Math Forum's Problems of the Week provide non-routine constructed response problems. The Math Fundamentals problems target concepts typically learned in grades 3-5. Memberships and mentoring options are available at the individual, class, school, and district levels.

## She Counts Seashells - posted April 6, 2009

Marcia collects seashells. One day she decided to count them.

- When she counted them by 2s, there was 1 left.
- When she counted them by 3s, there were 2 left.
- When she counted them by 4s, there were 3 left.
- When she counted them by 5s, there were 4 left.

What's the minimum (smallest) number of shells she can have in her collection?

Be sure to explain how you solved the problem.

**Extra:** Marcia noticed a pattern in the remainders when she counted the shells. She was curious, so she counted them by 6s and then 7s to find out if that pattern would continue. Use your answer to the main problem to find out what she learned.



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