A Song Every Minute

Do you like to sing? Do you have a favorite song? Music is like dessert: we don't have to have it to stay alive, but we love it so much that someone is always making more. How many songs are there in the world? Since anyone can write a new song, that must be a big number—maybe you've even made up a song yourself! Since many songs that are written are never recorded or written down, we don't know exactly how many songs have ever been created. But a company called Gracenote keeps a list of all the published songs out there: it had 79 million songs on it as of 2011. To get a sense of that number, 79 million minutes is about 150 years … so if most of the songs are from the year 1866 onward, that's one new song every minute. Either way, it's hard to learn the words to all of them!

Wee Ones

Can you sing "la la la"? Sing the word "la" 6 times!

Little Kids

If you have two favorite songs, and one runs 3 minutes long and the other is two minutes longer than the first one, how long is the second song?

Big Kids

Humans started counting about 9,000 years ago, but started using an alphabet 4,000 years after they started counting. How many years ago did the alphabet start?

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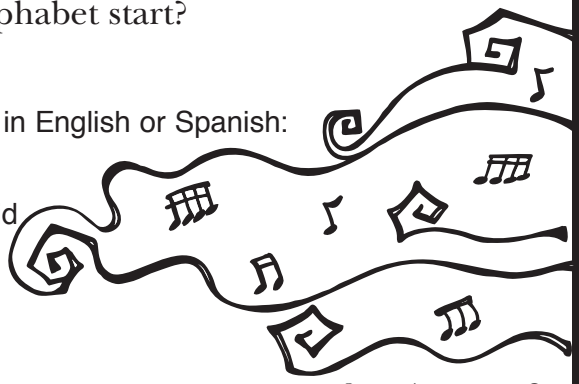

Bedtime Math Answers:
Wee ones: La la, la la la!
Little kids: 5 minutes long
Big kids: 5,000 years ago

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