Five Pebbles, Then None

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COUNT · MOVE · NAME ZERO

Under the baobab, Elephant has five little stones inside his rope. “Tap them into my basket,” he says, “and we will count what is left on the sand!”

1

THE SETUP

Under the baobab, warm in the sun,
Elephant's pebble move has begun.
Five little stones in his resting space—
He'll give them a basket, a brand-new place.

2

FIVE ON THE SAND

Five on the sand. In the basket, none.
He touches each pebble, just one by one.
He counts all five with his trunk held low,
Then looks where the little gray pebbles will go.



Before the moves: five on the sand, none in the basket.

3

ONE MOVE

One little pebble can travel across.
It gets a new home; not a pebble is lost.
Four on the sand and one tucked away:
The basket keeps pebbles in sight as they stay.

4

KEEP GOING

He moves one more, then checks once again.
Three pebbles left in his sandy pen.
Two, then one, then the last one can go—
No pebbles are left in the space down below.

5

ZERO

Five in the basket. None left on the sand.
His cozy spot's ready, just as he had planned.
The rope holds no pebbles. His work is all done.
Zero is how many are left: not a one.

Tap. Move. Look. Now each pebble can go.
Nothing left here is the number zero.

ORI'S ZERO THOUGHT

Zero tells us how many pebbles are left on the sand. All five are still in the basket.

Ori says

Tap. Move. Look.
Now each pebble can go.

A count-along rhyme from Wondermaths

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