

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is known for its famous lean that began even before it was finished being built. The Leaning Tower of Pisa is 675 years old.

Materials Needed: pictures in **Appendix 3.2**, chart paper, markers, small bells (one for the teacher and one for each child--share/borrow with other classes)

Remind children that this week you are tourists who are sightseeing all over Italy. Invite children to pretend to pack their tourist backpacks for the day, saying, "Hmm...what should we bring with us?" Remind children of the items you discussed yesterday and pretend to put each item in your backpack. Today your destination is The Leaning Tower of Pisa, so don't forget the tickets!

Show children pictures of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Ask them to share anything they notice about the structure and write some of the words they say on a piece of chart paper. After some discussion, you will come up with a list like this:

Leaning Tower of Pisa

leaning  
tower  
arches

columns  
stairs  
stories

church/cathedral  
bells  
tourists

Clarify the meaning of each word as you talk about it and connect a physical movement to each word as much as possible. For example, when you talk about the word leaning, invite children to stand and lean their bodies from side to side and front to back.

After explaining that The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a bell tower with seven bells hanging in the top level, give each child a bell. Invite children to shake their bells freely for seven seconds and then ask them to hold the bells still. Tell children that you want to ring the bells to count the syllables in each of the words on your list. As you count the syllables in each word, write the number beside it. Which word has the most syllables? Which word has the least number of syllables? Which words have an equal number of syllables? How many syllables are in the four words that make up the name "The Leaning Tower of Pisa?" (The Leaning Tower of Pisa- 1+2+2+1+2=8)

Next, invite children to sing this song to the tune of *London Bridges Falling Down*:

*The tower in Italy is leaning over, leaning over, leaning over. (lean each time you sing 'lean')*

*The tower in Italy is leaning over, and it has seven bells. (lean and then ring your bell high in the air)*

### Extensions

- ★ Use bells to practice rhyming and phonological awareness. Play games and invite children to ring their bell if a word rhymes with bell or if a word has the same beginning sound as bell.
- ★ Ring bells to signal transitions such as when it is time to clean up or to line up to go outside.

## Domains / Skills and Concepts

## PTLA Alignment

**Physical:** gross and fine motor movements

**Language and Communication:** leaning, Italy, tower, columns, arches, tourists, sightseeing, cathedrals, recalling previous knowledge, following simple directions, gaining understanding through listening; Pre-literacy- rhythm, rhyme and repetition in song; Phonological awareness- syllable segmenting, auditory discrimination

**Cognitive:** Math- one to one correspondence, measurement language, comparing quantities; Science- cause and effect; Art-music-participants in musical experiences, using bells to make music; Technology- using bells as a tool; Cultural/Social Studies- Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa is 675 years old. The Colosseum is over 1,000 years old!

**Social/Emotional:** impulse control, positive interactions, following simple directions, social skills to participant in groups

**Approaches to Learning:** focused attention, time on task, eagerness, curiosity, flexibility

**3K:** 3-PD.1,5;  
3-LLD.2,4,9,10;  
3-CD.5,8,10,13,17,  
22; 3-SED.6,10;  
3-AL.2,9  
**4K:** 4-PD.1,5;  
4-LLD.2,4,6,8;  
4-CD.6,7,13,15,17,  
19,24; 4-SED.7,12;  
4-AL.2,14

Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa and Colosseum are structures that are well-known throughout the world. The Leaning Tower of Pisa, because it is built on marshland, is known for its famous lean that began even before it was finished being built.

Materials Needed: small jingle bells (enough for each child to have seven), paper plates with a vertical line down the center, and pipe cleaners

Tell children that there are 7 giant (big) bells at the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Tell them that they are going to play games with bells and the number seven. Ask children to clap seven times. Count with each clap. Ask them to tap the table seven times. Count with each tap. Ask them to raise their hands up high seven times. Count with each raise. Provide each child with a paper plate and seven bells. Explain that there are many ways to make a set of seven and that they are going to do that today. Invite them to count seven bells and put them on one half of their plate. Ask them how many bells are on their plates (seven). Ask them to remove the seven bells. Ask them to put one bell on one side (half) of the plate and six bells on the other half. How many bells are on the plate (seven)? Remove bells. Place two bells on one half of the plate and five on the other half of the plate. How many bells (seven)? Three on one half and four on the other half. How many (seven)? These are some of the ways that they can make a set of seven using seven bells.

After children finish making sets of seven bells, then invite them to thread their seven bells through a pipe cleaner. Place the pipe cleaners around their wrist and twist it so that the bells will not fall off. Now they have a seven bell bracelet. If children shake their wrist what happens to the bells? They make a sound. What happens if they shake their wrists slowly? The sound slows down. What happens if they shake their wrist quickly? The sound speeds up.

*Younger children: Help them to count the bells.*

*Older children: Write the equations on pieces of paper or sentence strips, show them to children one at a time and then ask them to follow that equation (that number sentence) to make seven. You can also invite children to manipulate the bells to make seven and then write that number sentence.*

### Domains / Skills and Concepts

### PTLA Alignment

**Physical:** manipulating bells, writing

**Language and Communication:** Leaning Tower of Pisa, seven, half, set, following simple directions, understanding communication from others; Pre-literacy- attempts at writing, numeral recognition

**Cognitive:** Math- half, one to one correspondence, counting and combining sets, numbers and operations, understanding seven; Science- cause and effect  
Social Studies/Culture- Leaning Tower of Pisa has seven big bells at the top

**Social/Emotional:** confidence in abilities, positive interactions, social skills to participate in groups, impulse control, following simple directions

**Approaches to Learning:** curiosity, eagerness, focus attention, problem solving

**3K:** 3-PD.5,6;

3-LLD.2,9;

3-CD.8,9,10,13,17;

3-SED.6,8,10;

3-AL.1,2,9,11

**4K:** 4-PD.5,6;

4-LLD.2,8;

4-CD.7,9,13,17,19;

4-SED.5,7,12;

4-AL.1,2,12,14