

Going to St. Ives

by Mother Goose *from* The Real Mother Goose

St. Ives is a place in Great Britain. This poem is a riddle. See if you can find the answer. Kits is a short word for kittens.

As I was going to St. Ives
I met a man with seven wives.
Every wife had seven sacks,
Every sack had seven cats,
Every cat had seven kits.
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,
How many were going to St. Ives?

Questions

1. How many kittens did each cat have?
2. What was in each sack?
3. How many were going to St. Ives? Explain your answer.