MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Single-digit subtraction

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you work out what is left in your head, like how many cookies are left in the jar or how much change you should get, without counting backwards one by one. Knowing the small takeaways by heart means the answer is just there when you need it. That frees you up to think about the bigger problem, instead of spending your attention on counting down. It is the same skill you use at the till, in a game, or whenever you check what remains.



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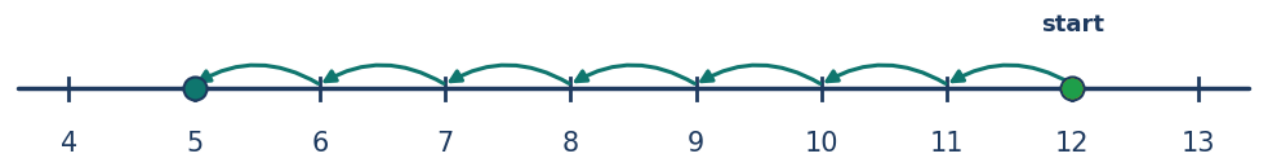
Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q 12 - 7 = ?



SOLUTION

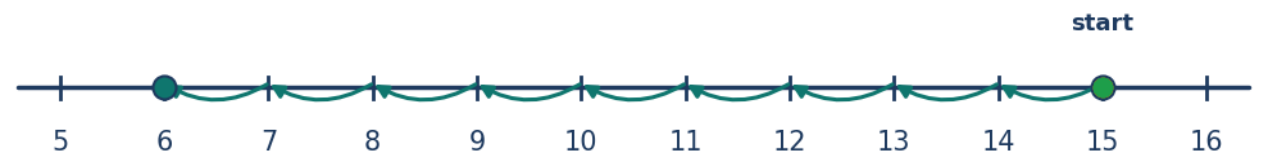
Start at 12.

Count back 7: 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5.

You land on 5, so 12 - 7 = 5

EXAMPLE 2

Q 15 - 9 = ?



SOLUTION

Start at 15.

Count back 9: 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6.

You land on 6, so 15 - 9 = 6

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Practice questions

1 Work out 9 - 4.

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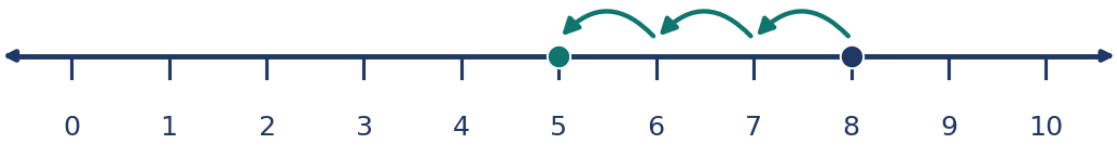
2 The jumps start at 8 and end on 5. How many jumps are there?



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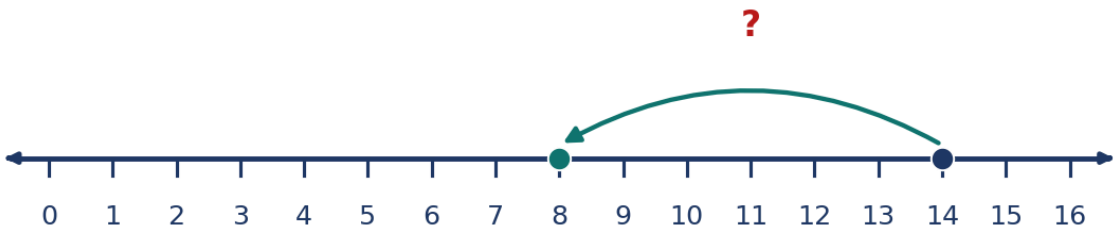
3 One big jump goes back from 14 to 8. How many spaces does the jump cover?



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4 The jumps end on 9. Count back along the jumps in the other direction. What number did they start from?



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5 **There are 13 children on a bus. 5 get off. How many children are left on the bus?**

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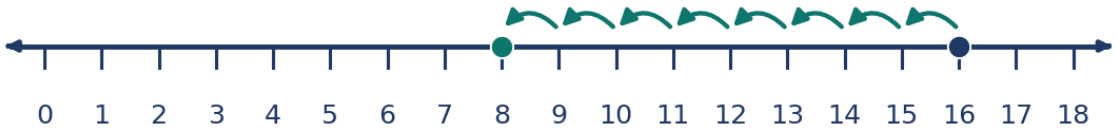
6 **The jumps start at 16 and go back 8 jumps. Where do they end?**



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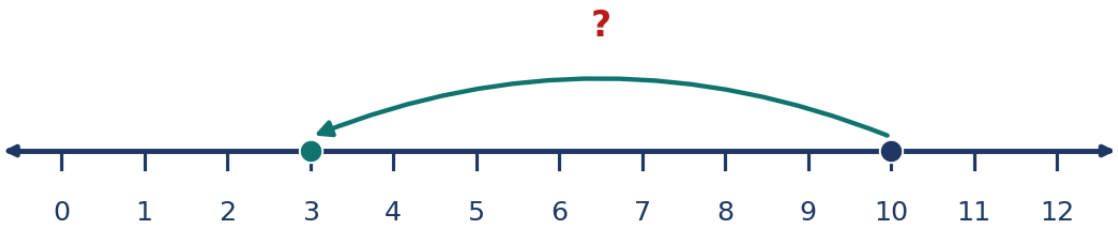
7 One big jump goes back 7 spaces from 10. Where does it land?



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8 Work out the missing number: 17 - ___ = 8.

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9 Work out 6 - 6.

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10 **Sam has 18 marbles and Ana has 9 marbles. How many more marbles does Sam have than Ana?**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 5

2. 3

3. 6

4. 11

5. 8

6. 8

7. 3

8. 9

9. 0

10. 9

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