Subtraction

(Think as Addition)

+ − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷

Prerequisite: Addition facts

Build the connection conceptually!

12 - 5

Place 12 counters on the mat.

Cover them.

Remove 5.

How many are hidden? (5 and the hidden part make 12.)

12 - 5 = ? is like 5 + ? = 12

Addition/Subtraction Flashcards:

Front:

12 - 5 = ☐

Back:

5 + ☐ = 12

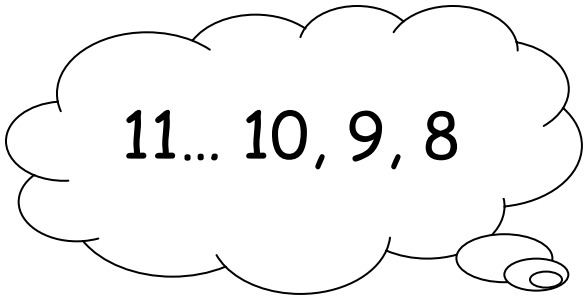
Counting Back

+ − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷

Most useful for subtracting one, two or three!

Thinking Strategy: Start at the big number. Count back the number of counts that you need to subtract.

11 – 3 = ?



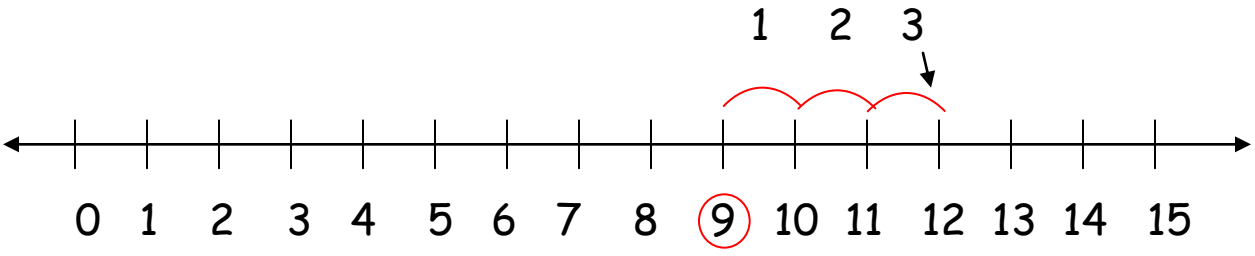
Counting Up

+ − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷

Most useful for differences of one, two or three (or when the numbers are close)!

Thinking Strategy: Start with the smaller number. Count up to the larger number.

12 - 9 = ?



I started at 9. Three more got me to 12.
So 12 - 9 = 3.

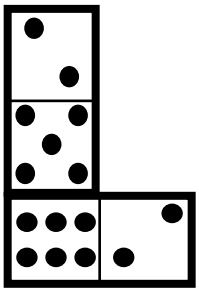
One Less/Two Less

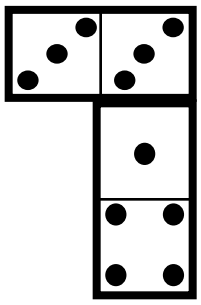
+ − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷

Use when numbers have differences of 1 or 2 as well as those that involve -1 or -2. Problems such as 8 - 7, 8 - 6, 8 - 1, 8 - 2.

Activity to review the one- and two-less-than relationship:

Play "one-less-than" dominoes. Play in the usual way, but instead of matching ends, a new domino is added if it is one less. A similar game can be played for two less.





Bridging through Ten

(Back Down Through Ten)

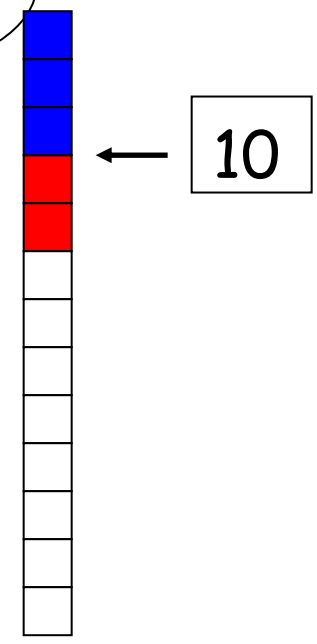
+ − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷ + − x ÷

Use when subtracting 8 or 9.

Thinking Strategy: Start at the small number. How many to get to 10? How many more to get to the big number?

13 – 8 = ?

Start at 8. Two more make 10. Three more gets me to 13. Two more and three more is five.



Bridging through Ten

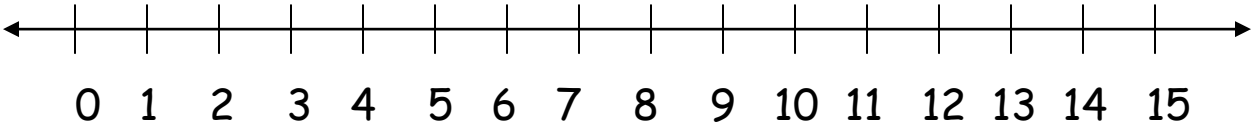
(Ten-Between)

Use when the number you are subtracting from is more than ten and the other number is less than ten.

Thinking Strategy: Find the distance from 10 for each of the numbers, then add their distances together.

13 - 6 = ?

13 is 3 away from 10 and 6 is 4 away from 10. Since 3 + 4 is 7, 13 - 6 = 7!



Subtraction Strategy Posters

Reformatted by Jessica Winston 9/2011

www.mswinston.com