

# Read About Subtraction

## WHAT IS SUBTRACTION?

Subtraction is taking away one group from a bigger group. When you subtract you are finding how many are left. You can subtract by counting how many are left. You can also subtract by counting back.

*To better understand subtraction...*

## LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

### Count to find how many cars in all.

Counting tells you how many you have in all. There are toy cars on a table. Say one number for each car. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. There are 10 cars on the table.



## Count how many baby chicks are left.

There are baby chicks in a nest.  
Count the chicks to see how many in all. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. There are 5 chicks in all.  
Sasha takes 1 chick out of the nest.  
How many chicks are left? 1, 2, 3, 4.  
There are 4 chicks left.



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## Use “-” and “=” to show subtraction.

A “-” shows a group being taken away from another group.  $5 - 1 = 4$ .  
The “-” shows that 1 chick was taken away from a group of 5. The “=” shows that 5 take away 1 is equal to 4.  
There are 4 chicks left.



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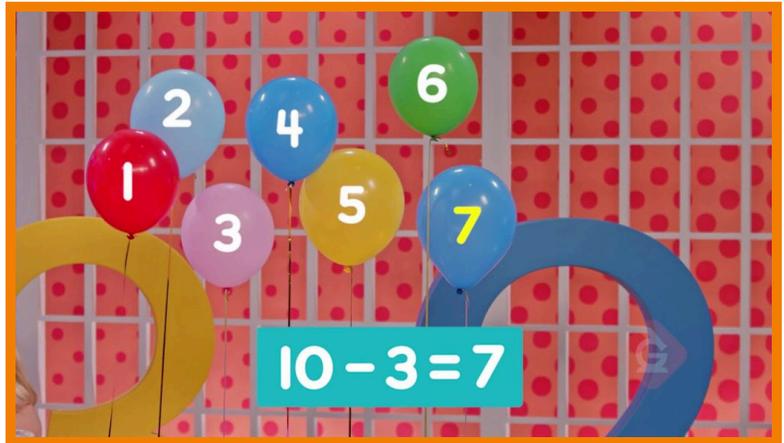
## Use fingers to subtract donuts.

You made 8 donuts. Your family at 3.  
How many donuts are left? Show 8 with your fingers. Put 3 fingers down.  
Count how many fingers you still have up: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. There are 5 donuts left.  $8 - 3 = 5$ .



## Count back to subtract balloons.

There were 10 balloons. Then 3 balloons popped. How many balloons are left? Start at 10. Count back 3: 9, 8, 7. There are 7 balloons left.  $10 - 3 = 7$ .



## INTRO TO SUBTRACTION VOCABULARY

**Add** To put together. If you add 3 and 2, you find how many there are in all.

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**Subtraction** To take away. If you take away 2 from 3, you find how many are left after 2 are taken away from 3.

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**Count on** To count in increasing counting order. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ...

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**Count back** To count in decreasing counting order. 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, ...

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**Greater** A number is greater than another number if you count it second when counting.

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**Lesser** A number is less than another number if you count it first when counting.

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## INTRO TO SUBTRACTION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### What does subtraction mean?

Subtraction means to take away. When I subtract 3 from 5, I take away 3 from 5.

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### How can you use counters to show subtraction?

I can use counters to show how many there are to start. Then I can take away counters to show how many I subtract. Then I can count the amount that is left. Or I can count back from the start

number as I take away the number of counters to subtract.

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**Look at the number sentence  $6 - 4 = 2$ . What does the  $-$  mean? What does the 2 mean?**

The  $-$  means that 4 is taken away from 6. The 2 means that there are 2 left over. 6 take away 4 is 2.

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**There are 4 balls in a bin. 1 is taken out. How many balls are left in the bin?**

$4 - 1 = 3$ . There are 3 balls left.

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**How do you know what number to take away?**

I always take away the smaller (lesser) number. The words in the problem tell me what number is there to start and what is taken away.

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