

1st Grade Math: Ways to Subtract

In this lesson, we will explore different **ways to subtract**. Subtraction means taking away a number from another number to find out how many are left. We can use various methods to help us understand and solve subtraction problems.

Key Concepts

1. Understanding Subtraction:

- Subtraction is like taking away. For example, if you have **5 apples** and you eat **2**, you will have **3 apples** left. We can write this as $5 - 2 = 3$.

2. Different Ways to Subtract:

- There are several methods to help us with subtraction:
 - **Using Objects:** Count items physically.
 - **Drawing Pictures:** Create visual representations.
 - **Number Line:** Use a number line to count backward.
 - **Number Sentences:** Write out the subtraction sentence.

Method 1: Using Objects

Using physical objects like blocks, toys, or fruits can help us visualize subtraction.

Example:

- **Problem:** You have **4 toy cars**. You give away **1 toy car**. How many toy cars do you have left?
- **Solution:**
 - Start with **4 toy cars**.
 - Take away **1 toy car**.
 - Count the remaining cars: **3 toy cars**.
 - Written as $4 - 1 = 3$.

Method 2: Drawing Pictures

Drawing can also help us understand subtraction by visually representing the problem.

Example:

- **Problem:** There are **6 birds** in a tree. **2 birds** fly away. How many birds are left in the tree?
- **Solution:**
 - Draw **6 birds**.
 - Cross out **2 birds** that flew away.
 - Count the remaining birds: **4 birds**.
 - Written as $6 - 2 = 4$.

Method 3: Using a Number Line

A number line helps us see the relationship between numbers and helps us subtract by counting backward.

Example:

- **Problem:** You have **5 balloons**. If you lose **2 balloons**, how many do you have left?
- **Solution:**
 - Draw a number line from **0** to **5**.
 - Start at **5** and count backward **2** spaces.
 - You land on **3**.
 - Written as $5 - 2 = 3$.

Method 4: Writing Number Sentences

Writing subtraction problems as number sentences is a simple and clear way to show subtraction.

Example:

- **Problem:** You have **7 cookies**, and you eat **3**. How many cookies are left?
- **Solution:**
 - Write the number sentence: $7 - 3 = ?$.
 - Solve it: $7 - 3 = 4$.
 - So, you have **4 cookies** left.

Practice Problems

1. **Problem:** There are **10 flowers** in a garden. **4 flowers** wilt. How many flowers are still blooming?
 - Write a number sentence: $10 - 4 = ?$
 - Solve it: $10 - 4 = ?$
2. **Problem:** Lisa has **8 crayons**. She gives away **5 crayons**. How many does she have left?
 - Write a number sentence: $8 - 5 = ?$
 - Solve it: $8 - 5 = ?$
3. **Problem:** There are **9 apples** in a basket. **3 apples** are eaten. How many apples remain in the basket?
 - Write a number sentence: $9 - 3 = ?$
 - Solve it: $9 - 3 = ?$

Summary

- Subtraction means taking away.
- We can use different methods to subtract: objects, pictures, number lines, and number sentences.
- Practice solving subtraction problems in various ways to become more comfortable with the concept.

Conclusion

Understanding subtraction is essential, and knowing different ways to approach it makes math easier and more fun! Keep practicing, and you'll become a subtraction expert!