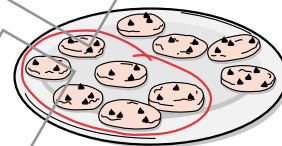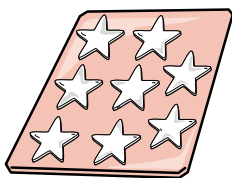# Contents

One, Two, Three Ways to Subtract

You add to put groups together. You subtract to take part of a group away. But that's not the only time you subtract. There are three different times when you subtract.

Here's one example. Suppose you have a plate of 10 cookies. You eat 6 of them. How many cookies are left on the plate? Subtract 6 from 10 to find the **difference**. You can write this problem two ways:

$$10 - 6 = 4 \qquad \begin{array}{r} 10 \\ -\ 6 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$

The answer is 4. There are 4 cookies left on the plate. You subtract to find **how many of something are left.**

Now suppose you and a friend are making cookies. Your friend cuts out 8 cookies. You cut out 6 cookies. How many more cookies has your friend cut out than you? To find out, subtract 6 from 8:

$$8 - 6 = 2 \qquad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ -\ 6 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

Your friend has cut out 2 more than you. Here you subtract to **compare two things.**

Finally, suppose you want to decorate 9 of the baked cookies. You put sprinkles and icing on 3 of them. How many more cookies do you need to decorate to make 9? To find out, subtract 3 from 9.

$$9 - 3 = 6 \qquad \begin{array}{r} 9 \\ -\ 3 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$

You need to decorate 6 more cookies. Here, you subtract to find **how many more of something you need.**

Put an X in the box (☐) beside the best answer.

1. How many ways are there to write a subtraction problem?
    ☐ one ☐ two ☐ three ☐ four

2. The main idea of this story is that you can subtract _____.
    ☐ to put groups together ☐ only to find out how many are left
    ☐ to do three different things ☐ only to compare two things

3. Which words in a problem tell you that you probably have to subtract?
    ☐ how many more ☐ how many total
    ☐ how many in all ☐ how many altogether

4. What happens **last?**
    ☐ Eat some cookies. ☐ Decorate the cookies.
    ☐ Bake the cookies. ☐ Cut out some cookies.

5. In paragraph 2, the word **difference** means _____.
    ☐ the answer when you subtract one number from another
    ☐ two things that are the same or different
    ☐ the answer when you add two or more numbers
    ☐ the way something is not like another thing

• •

Write your answer to this question on the lines.

Write about a time when you subtracted to find an answer. Tell if you subtracted to find out how many were left or how many more were needed, or to compare something to another thing.

_____

_____

_____