

# Contents

From First to Last.....	3
Numbers Are Ideas .....	6
Counting Like the Egyptians .....	8
A Very “Handy” Way to Count.....	10
Evens and Odds .....	12
Greater Than, Less Than, and In-Between .....	14
One, Two, Three Ways to Subtract .....	16
All About Opposites .....	18
It All Adds Up the Same .....	20
Number Words Can Tell a Story .....	22
Over and Over and Over .....	24
Hop, Skip, and Jump .....	26
Rules, Rules, Rules.....	28
Flat Shapes, Solid Shapes.....	30
Squares and Rectangles .....	32
A Perfect Match .....	34
It’s About Time .....	36
Calendar Countdown .....	38
Make Your Marks .....	40
The Shape of Data.....	42
The Long and the Short of Bar Graphs .....	44
Asking Questions.....	46
Units and More Units .....	48
Picturing Perimeter .....	50
Likely or Not .....	52
Got a Problem? Here’s What to Do .....	54
Glossary.....	56

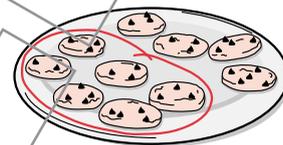


## One, Two, Three Ways to Subtract

**Y**ou 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:

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



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:

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



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.

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



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.

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