



ADULT GUIDE · KEEP THIS PAGE

Add and subtract stories to 20

England national curriculum · Year 1 · within 20

What this pack helps with

Connect adding with combining or increasing, and subtraction with taking away. Choose an operation, solve one-step stories and undo a change to find a missing number.

Start here

The child can count to 20 and has met the words add, take away and altogether. Use real objects before pictures if needed.

Use a pencil and up to 20 counters. Ask: “What happened?” before asking for an equation. Drawing, counters and spoken reasoning are all useful.

Print and use

Print A4 at actual size (100%). Child pages: **2-6**. Answers and feedback: **7**. Colour is optional; every task works in black and white. Pages may be used separately.

Model page 2 together. Let the child move objects before writing. Accept spoken, drawn or practical explanations and note any help; this is teaching practice, not a standardised test.

What to try next

Chooses a sign from a keyword alone	Act out the whole event. Ask whether the group grew, shrank or was joined.
Counts crossed-out objects as remaining	Physically move the taken-away counters aside, then count only the objects left.
Guesses a missing number	Build the known total and undo the stated operation. Check by replaying the original equation.
Works confidently	Ask the child to invent a different story for the same equation and explain why it still fits.

Scope and source

One-step addition, take-away and missing-number practice within 20. It does not cover comparison difference, measures, two-step problems or calculations above 20. Based on DfE Year 1 mathematics and primary mathematics guidance (England; OGL v3.0). Original TheLearnDen tasks and artwork; not an official assessment. Free to print and share.



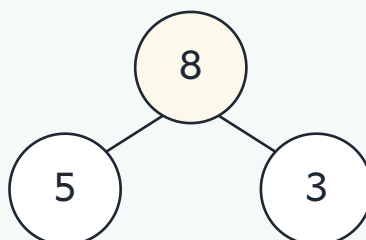
LEARN TOGETHER · WITHIN 20

Add and subtract stories to 20

Name: _____ Date: _____

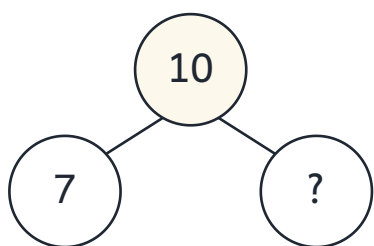
Try it together

There are 5 shells. Put 3 more beside them. The group grows, so add: $5 + 3 = 8$.

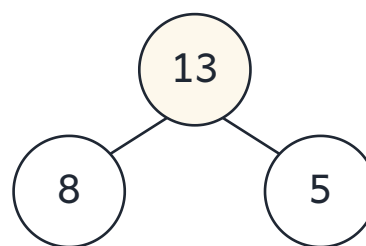


$$5 + 3 = 8 \quad 8 - 3 = 5$$

Build, say, write



Use counters to find the missing part.



Say two addition and two subtraction facts.

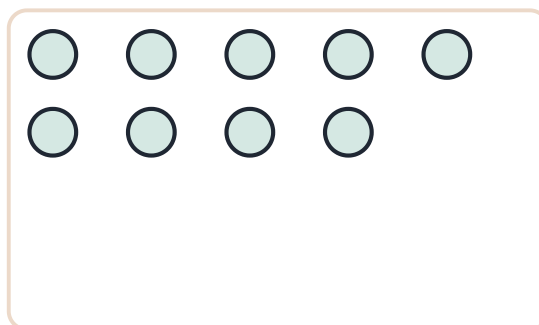
Whole = both parts together. Subtraction can undo addition.



PRACTISE INDEPENDENTLY · WITHIN 20

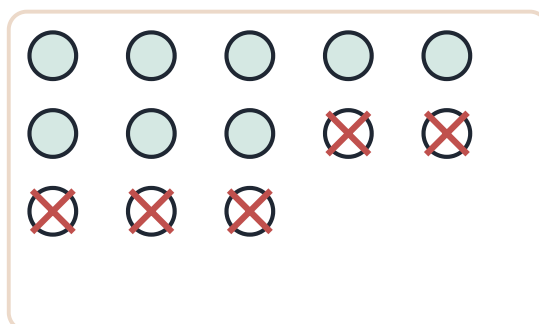
See the change

- 1 There are 6 counters. Add 3 more.
How many altogether?



$$6 + 3 =$$

- 2 Start with 13. Cross out 5.
How many remain?



$$13 - 5 =$$



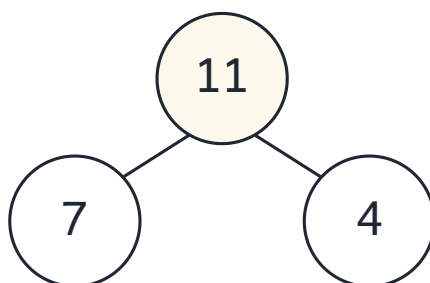
PRACTISE INDEPENDENTLY · WITHIN 20

Choose the sign

- 3 Choose + or - to make the equation true.

$$7 \square 4 = 11$$

Did the two parts join, or did a part go away?



- 4 There are 10 birds.
Three birds fly away.
Circle the sign to use.



Draw the event, then say why.



PRACTISE INDEPENDENTLY · WITHIN 20

Solve the story

- 5 Mia has 8 shells. She finds 7 more.
How many shells altogether?

$$8 + 7 =$$

Draw or use counters to check.

- 6 There are 16 apples. 9 are used.
How many apples remain?

$$16 - 9 =$$

Draw or use counters to check.

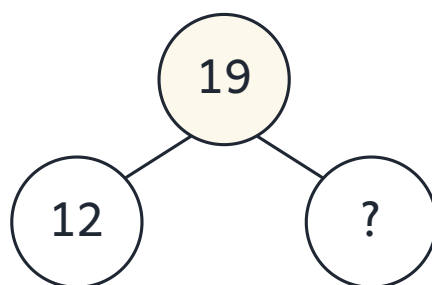


REASON AND EXPLAIN · WITHIN 20

Find the missing number

- 7 Find the missing part.
Show how you can check it.

$$12 + \square = 19$$



- 8 A number loses 6. Then 8 remain.
What was the starting number?

$$\square - 6 = 8$$

Use the inverse to check.



ADULT ANSWER GUIDE

Answers and next steps

Ask the child to show how they know. Accept counters, pictures, jumps, equations or a clear spoken explanation. Scribe when writing is the barrier.

- 1** **9** Count 6, then count on 3 more: 9 altogether.
Accept the independently checked number and a matching model or spoken explanation when requested.
- 2** **8** Five are crossed out. Eight remain.
Accept the independently checked number and a matching model or spoken explanation when requested.
- 3** **+** The two parts combine to make 11, so the missing sign is +.
Accept + with a spoken, pictured or practical explanation that two parts combine to make the whole.
- 4** **-** The group gets smaller when three fly away, so subtract.
Accept - with an explanation that the event removes a part and makes the group smaller.
- 5** **15** Eight shells and seven more make fifteen altogether.
Accept the independently checked number and a matching model or spoken explanation when requested.
- 6** **7** Start with sixteen and take away nine. Seven remain.
Accept the independently checked number and a matching model or spoken explanation when requested.
- 7** **7** Count from 12 to 19 or subtract 12 from 19. The missing part is 7.
Accept 7 with a counter model, count-on jumps or the check $12 + 7 = 19$.
- 8** **14** Undo the subtraction: $8 + 6 = 14$, and $14 - 6 = 8$.
Accept 14 with an inverse check or a model that starts with 14, removes 6 and leaves 8.

My practice trail

Optional: colour one circle for each question tried and discussed. This records practice, not a test score.



One thing to practise next: _____