

Subtraction of Small Numbers

Chapter 8: Fun with Numbers · Topic 2

Key Concept

When we subtract, like $5 - 2$, we start with 5 objects and take away 2, leaving us with 3 objects.

The minus sign (-) tells us to subtract or take away, and the equal sign (=) shows how many are left after subtracting.

We can use objects or our fingers to act out subtraction - for example, hold up 5 fingers, put down 2, and count how many fingers are still up.

Subtraction is the opposite of addition - if $3 + 2 = 5$, then $5 - 2 = 3$ and $5 - 3 = 2$, showing how addition and subtraction are connected.

Quick Revision Notes

- Subtraction means taking away objects from a group.
- The minus sign (-) means 'take away'.
- $5 - 2 = 3$ is a simple subtraction example.
- We can use fingers or objects to subtract.
- Subtraction tells us how many are left.
- Subtraction is the opposite of addition.
- If $3+2=5$, then $5-2=3$.
- Practising small subtraction builds a strong base for bigger sums.

Practice Questions

- 1 Solve: $6 - 3 = ?$
- 2 Solve: $8 - 5 = ?$
- 3 Use your fingers to subtract $7 - 3$.
- 4 Draw 6 circles, cross out 2, and count what's left.
- 5 Make your own subtraction sum using small objects.
- 6 Practice five subtraction sums using numbers up to 10.