THINKING WITH NUMBERS
Lesson Descriptions

Counting Back To Subtract

Instead of counting the part you subtract, then counting what is left, it is often much easier to start with the whole and count back. For example, to subtract 7 – 2, you can start with 7 and count back two, 6, 5. This is especially efficient when the number you are subtracting is small, even when the whole is much larger. For example, counting back enables you to solve 86 – 2 almost as easily as 6-2.

Expected content outcomes include helping children learn:
- to make sense of counting back to subtract,
- to recognize that counting back is strategically efficient when the number you are subtracting is small, and
- to become proficient in using counting back.