THINKING WITH NUMBERS
Lesson Descriptions

Counting Up To Subtract

Instead of counting the part you subtract, then counting what is left, it is often much easier to start with the part you are subtracting and count up to the whole while keeping track of how many more you counted. For example, to subtract 10 – 8, you can start with 8 and count up to ten, 9, 10. That's just 2 more. This is especially efficient when the number you are subtracting is about the same size as the whole, even when the whole is much larger. For example, counting back enables you to solve 78 – 76 almost as easily as 8-6.

Expected content outcomes include helping children learn:
  • to make sense of counting up to subtract,
  • to recognize that counting up is strategically efficient when the number you are subtracting is about the same size as the whole, and
  • to become proficient in using counting up to subtract.