



Name _____ Date _____

Subtracting Integers

 (pages 445–448)

You can use counters or a number line to subtract integers.

Subtracting Integers

To find the difference $4 - (-7)$, follow these steps.

- Place 4 positive counters on a mat.
- To subtract -7 , you must remove 7 negative counters. To be able to do this, first add 7 zero pairs to the mat.
- Remove 7 negative counters. There are 11 positive counters remaining on the mat.
- $4 - (-7) = 11$

EXAMPLES

A Find this difference: $-3 - (-4)$.

Begin with 3 negative counters. Add a zero pair to the mat, then remove 4 negative counters. There is 1 positive counter remaining.

$$-3 - (-4) = 1$$

B Find this difference: $6 - 8$.

Start at zero on the number line and go to 6. From there go 8 in the negative direction (left). You end at -2 .

$$6 - 8 = -2$$

Try These Together

1. Find $6 - (-9)$.

HINT: Begin with 6 positive counters, then add 9 zero pairs.

2. Find $-9 - 3$.

HINT: Start at zero and go 9 in the negative direction. From there, go 3 more in the negative direction.

PRACTICE

Find each difference. Use counters or a number line if necessary.

3. $4 - 2$

4. $3 - 5$

5. $4 - 7$

6. $5 - 1$

7. $4 - (-5)$

8. $-3 - (-3)$

9. $6 - 9$

10. $-10 - 5$

11. $-7 - (-2)$

12. $14 - (-1)$

13. $8 - (-3)$

14. $-9 - 4$

15. Find $-3 + 2 - (-6)$.

16. Find the value of $x - y$ if $x = -7$ and $y = 3$.

17. **Landscaping** Charlie is a landscaper. He planted a row of flowers 2 feet back from the street. He then planted a row of bushes 4 feet behind the flowers. What negative integer represents how far back from the street the row of bushes is?

18. **Life Science** A dolphin dives 3 feet underwater. It then dives 5 more feet underwater. What negative integer tells how many feet underwater the dolphin is?



19. **Standardized Test Practice** What is the difference $-15 - (-5)$?

A -10

B -20

C 10

D 20

Answers: 1. 15 2. -12 3. 2 4. -2 5. -3 6. 4 7. 9 8. 0 9. -3 10. -15 11. -5 12. 15 13. 11 14. -13 15. 5 16. -10 17. -6 18. -8 19. A