Name _____ Date _____

INTEGERS WITH COUNTERS · LESSON 7

Subtracting Integers with Different Signs

Example

4 – (–3) = ?



1 Start with 4: four red counters.

2 We need to remove 3 blue counters, but there are none. Add 3 zero pairs.

3 Remove 3 blue counters. 7 red counters are left.

4 – (–3) = 7

1 Work out both calculations in each row with counters. What do you notice?

4 – (–3) = ☐

4 + 3 = ☐

–5 – 2 = ☐

–5 + (–2) = ☐

2 – (–6) = ☐

2 + 6 = ☐

–3 – 4 = ☐

–3 + (–4) = ☐

Subtracting a number gives the same result as _____.

2 Fill in the Difference column and write your own example for each row.

STEP	DESCRIPTION	MINUEND	SUBTRAHEND	DIFFERENCE	MY EXAMPLE
5.	**Subtracting integers with different signs**	−	+		
		+	−		

3 Write each subtraction as adding the opposite number and work it out.

a) 6 − (−2) = 6 + _____ = _____

b) −4 − 9 = −4 + _____ = _____

c) −8 − (−3) = −8 + _____ = _____

d) 0 − (−12) = 0 + _____ = _____

e) 15 − 20 = 15 + _____ = _____

f) −7 − 7 = −7 + _____ = _____

4 The highest temperature of the day was 3 °C and the lowest was −5 °C. What is the difference between the highest and the lowest temperature?

5 Draw a line from each subtraction to the addition with the same result.

a) 5 − (−2)	•	• −5 + (−2) **1.**
b) −5 − 2	•	• 5 + 2 **2.**
c) 5 − 2	•	• −5 + 2 **3.**
d) −5 − (−2)	•	• 5 + (−2) **4.**

Remember

Subtracting a number is the same as adding its _____ number:
a − b = a + (_____)