

Word Problem Intervention

By Numeracy Consultants

Level 1



Addition and Subtraction to 20

Addition / Subtraction
Result Unknown to 10

Addition / Subtraction
Result Unknown to 20

Addition / Subtraction
Change/Part Unknown to 10

Addition / Subtraction
Change/Part Unknown to 20

Addition / Subtraction
Start Unknown to 10

Addition / Subtraction
Start Unknown to 20

Comparison
Difference Unknown to 10

Comparison
Difference Unknown to 20

Larger / Smaller
Quantity Unknown to 10

Larger / Smaller
Quantity Unknown to 20

Free Supplement

Free Supplement

*To purchase the remainder of this resources
please visit www.numeracyconsultants.net/store*

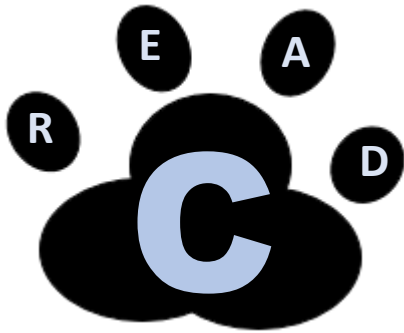
info@numeracyconsultants.net



*To purchase the remainder of this
resources please visit
www.numeracyconsultants.net/store*

info@numeracyconsultants.net

CUBS Strategy



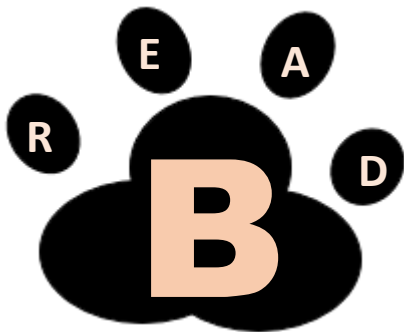
Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



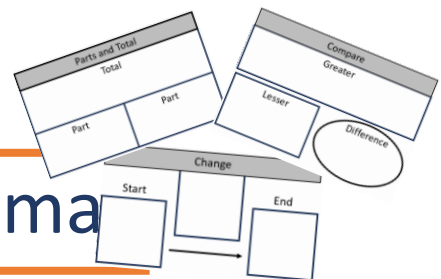
Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?



Reread and

Build the Schema



Build the problem using a graphic organizer.

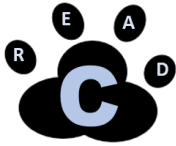


Summarize and Solve



$+$ $-$ $\times$ $\div$ $=$

CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?



Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



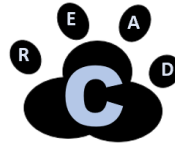
Summarize and Solve



$+$ $-$ $\times$ $\div$ $=$

©Numeracy Consultants LLC:

CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?



Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



$+$ $-$ $\times$ $\div$ $=$

©Numeracy Consultants LLC:

CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?



Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



$+$ $-$ $\times$ $\div$ $=$

©Numeracy Consultants LLC:

CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

Is problem dealing with a total, parts, change, compare, equal groups?



Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



$+$ $-$ $\times$ $\div$ $=$

©Numeracy Consultants LLC:

CUBS Strategy — Classroom Implementation Guide

Step-by-step guide for teaching math word problems

C

STEP 1 · COMPREHEND

Free Supplement

Read the problem — understand what's happening

→ Read the problem aloud together, then ask: "What is this problem about? Tell me in your own words."

→ Circle key nouns — who or what the problem involves. No numbers yet.

→ Have students retell the story to a partner before moving on.

Tip: Resist pointing out numbers here — pure comprehension of context comes first.

U

STEP 2 · UNDERSTAND THE SCHEMA

Reread — identify the problem type

→ Reread slowly, looking for the structure of the problem. Ask: "Is something being joined, separated, compared, or split into equal groups?"

→ Underline action words (gave away, altogether, more than, each) that signal the schema.

→ Students name the type and explain why: "This is a ___ problem because ___."

Tip: This is the deepest step — spend the most time here, especially early in the year.

B

STEP 3 · BUILD THE SCHEMA

Reread — fill in the graphic organizer

→ Students select the matching graphic organizer and reread to pull out numbers and unknowns.

→ Fill in known values; write "?" for what is unknown. Model: "I know the total is 24. I don't know one part, so I write a question mark."

→ Check: does the organizer match the story? If not, revisit Step 2.

Tip: Laminated organizers with dry-erase markers are great for repeated practice.

S

STEP 4 · SUMMARIZE AND SOLVE

Write the equation — solve and check

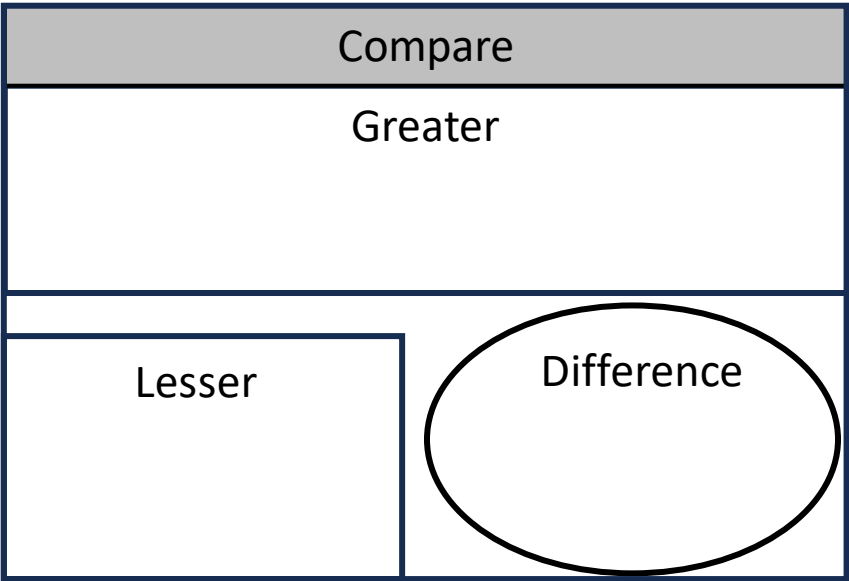
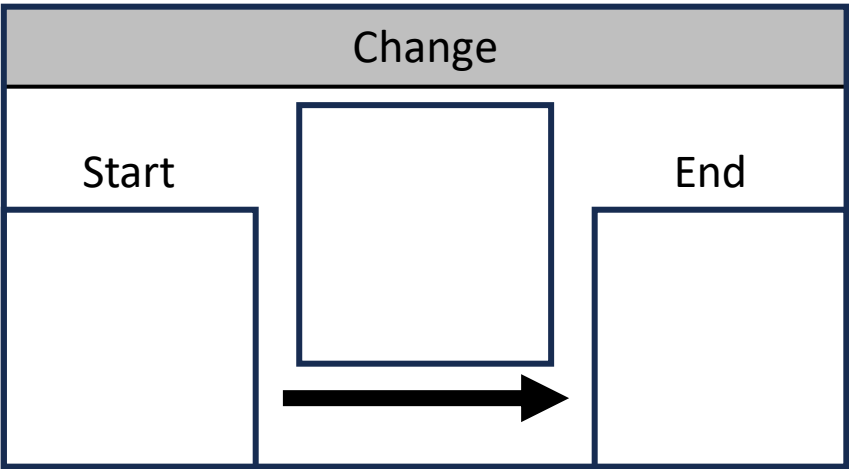
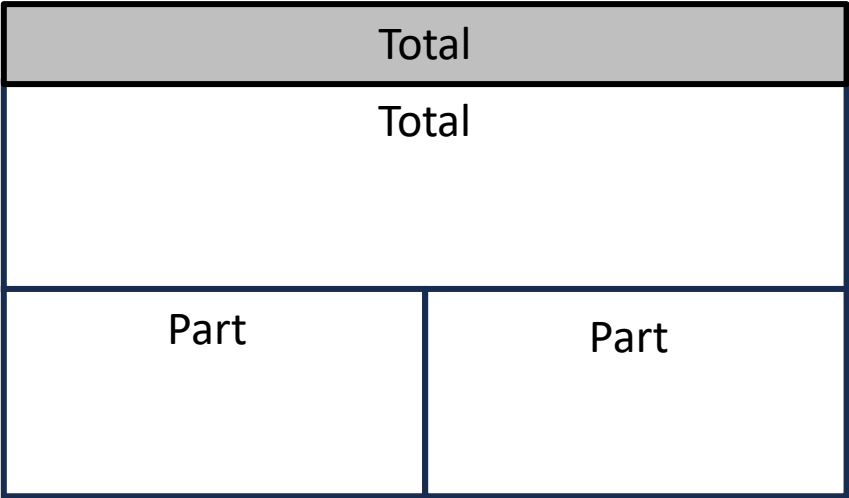
→ Use the graphic organizer to write a number sentence. Ask: "What operation does this schema require?"

→ Solve using any strategy. Write a complete answer sentence tied to the story context.

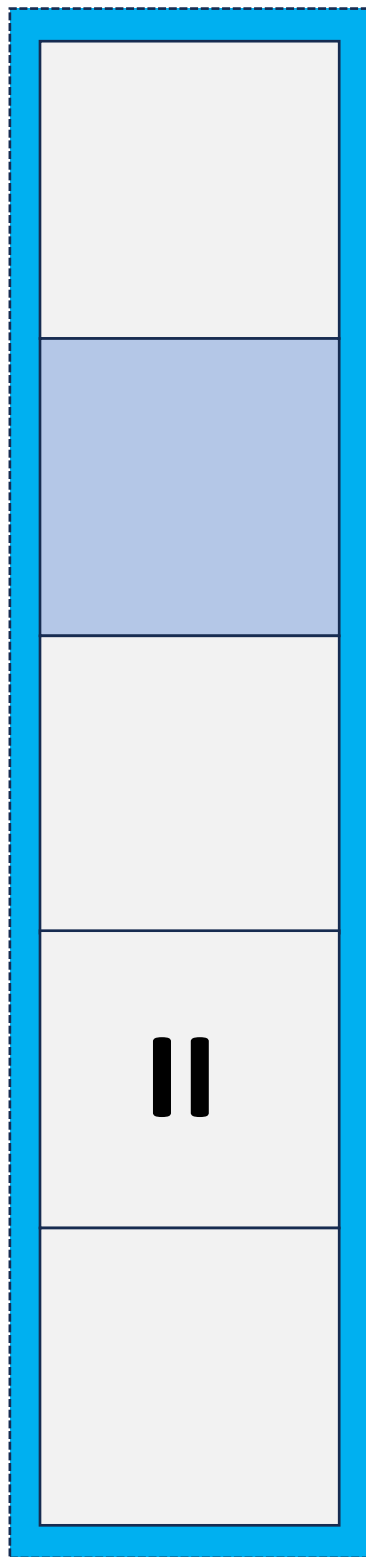
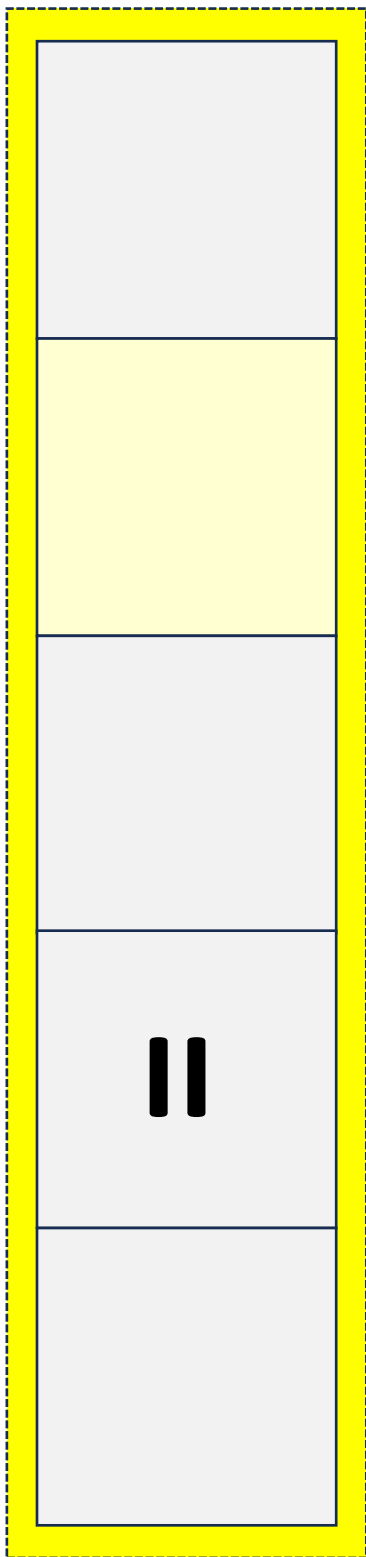
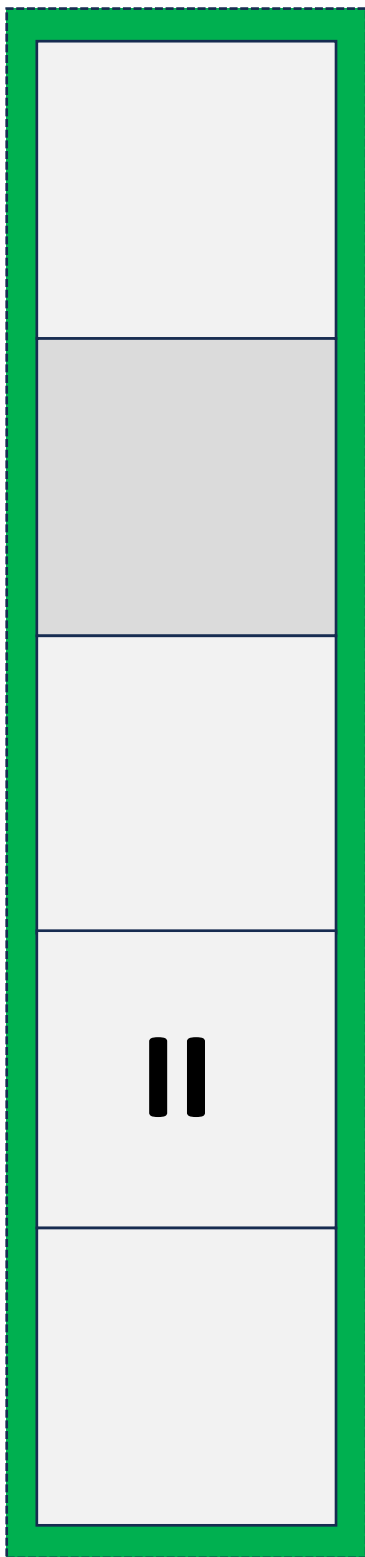
→ Check: reread the problem with the answer plugged in — does it make sense?

Tip: Require a labeled sentence every time — "There are 15 apples left." — to close the loop back to comprehension.

Rollout suggestion: Introduce one letter at a time over several days before using the full process. Model each step with think-alouds, then move to partner work, then independent practice. Post an anchor chart with all four steps visible throughout the unit.



Compare	
Greater	
Lesser	Difference





0										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

0										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

0										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

0										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

0										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20



1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Addition & Subtraction Result Unknown

The result unknown section has two types of problems: change problems, where the result of the change is unknown, and total or combining problems, where the total of the combined parts is unknown.

(Total: Part/Part/Whole Problems):

- Total or combining problems involve situations where the result of combining the parts is unknown.
- These are sometimes referred to as part/part/whole problems because they involve breaking down a whole into parts or combining parts to find the whole.

Total: Result Unknown

Tom had 8 blue marbles and 5 red marbles. How many marbles does he have total?

$$8 + 5 = ?$$

Total	
Total	
Part	Part

The unknown is the sum or total.

Addition & Subtraction Result Unknown

The result unknown section has two types of problems: change problems, where the result of the change is unknown, and combining problems, where the total of the combined parts is unknown.

Change Problems (Joining or Separating Problems):

- In change problems, the result is unknown because some kind of change occurs, such as an increase or decrease in quantity.
- These problems often involve scenarios where items are added together (joining) or taken away from each other (separating).

Increase Change: Result Unknown	Decrease Change: Result Unknown
Tom has 8 apples. Lisa gave him 5 apples. How many apples does Tom have all together? $8 + 5 = ?$ The unknown or end is the result of the change.	Tom has 13 apples. He gave 5 apples to Lisa. How many apples does Tom have now? $13 - 5 = ?$ The unknown or end is the result of the change.

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led  C   U —  B   S =	Jason has 5 pieces of candy. Sam has 3 pieces of candy. How many pieces of candy do they have altogether? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Teacher Guided    	Cal saw 4 spiders. Fred saw 4 spiders. How many spiders did they see in all? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Independent Problem   	Jim drew 2 pictures. Emma drew 7 pictures. How many pictures did they draw combined? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				

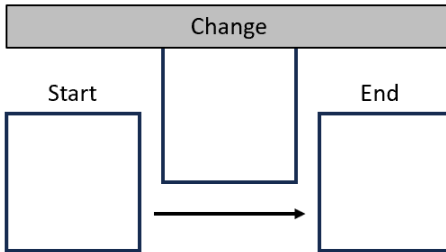
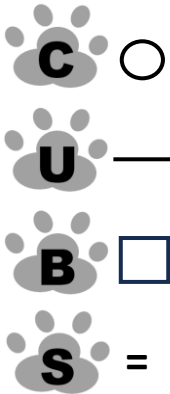
Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

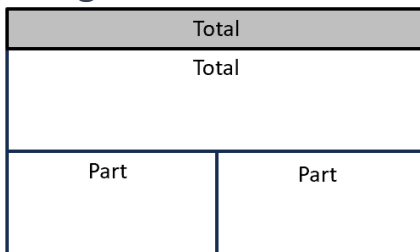
Teacher Led

There are **7** butterflies in a garden, and then **2** more butterflies flew into the garden. **How many butterflies are in the garden total?**



Teacher Guided

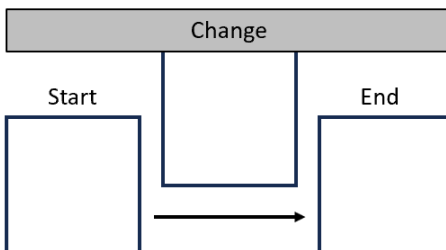
In a basket, there were 5 oranges and in another basket there were 3 oranges. How many oranges are there altogether?



Independent Problem



At the zoo, there were 6 monkeys playing in the trees, and 4 more monkeys joined them. How many monkeys in total?

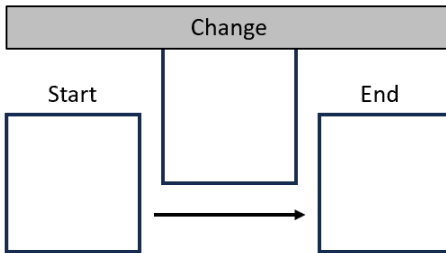
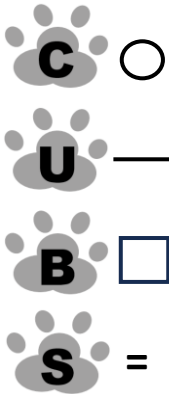


Name: _____

Free Supplement

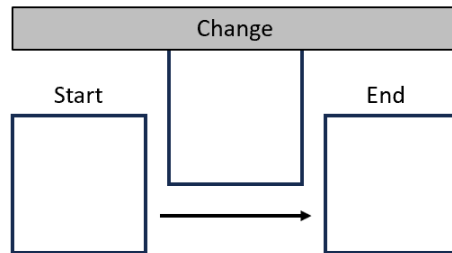
Teacher Led

Lisa had **8** candies, and she ate **4** of them. **How many candies does Lisa have left?**



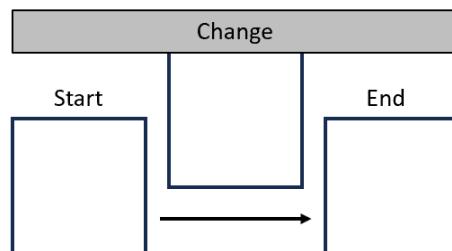
Teacher Guided

Sarah had 9 stickers, but she gave 4 to her friend. How many stickers does Sarah have now?



Independent Problem

In a box, there were 8 toy cars, 3 of them were taken out to play with. How many toy cars are still in the box?

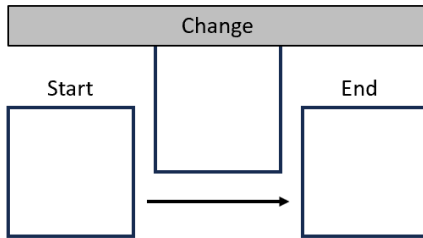
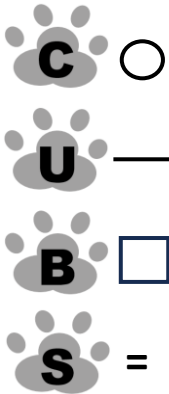


Name: _____

Free Supplement

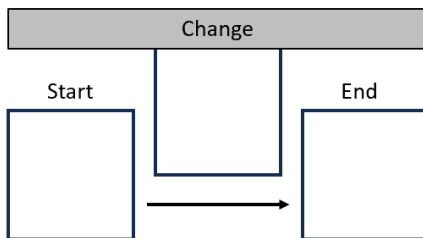
Teacher Led

Bella had **10** marbles, and she decided to give **6** of them to her younger brother. **How many marbles does Bella have now?**



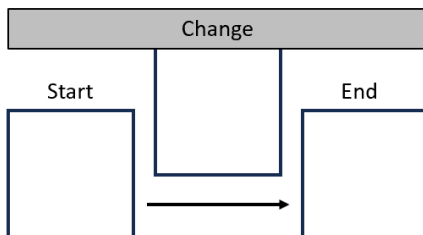
Teacher Guided

A bakery had 6 apple pies, and they sold 2 of them in the morning. How many apple pies are still available for the afternoon customers?



Independent Problem

Tom collected 10 seashells at the beach, but he accidentally dropped 5 of them back into the ocean. How many seashells does he have left?



Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

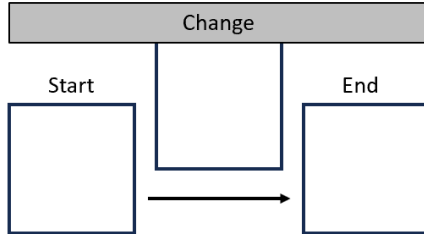
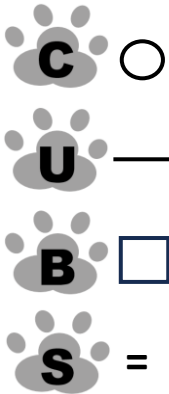
Teacher Led	Emily had 3 apples, and her friend gave her 5 more. How many apples does Emily have now?  ○  —  □  = Change Start End
Teacher Guided	In a toy store, there were 3 teddy bears on the shelf. The owner brought 4 more teddy bears from the back room. How many teddy bears are there in total?     Change Start End
Independent Problem	James had \$5 last week and had \$8 this week. How much money has he saved in total? Total Total Part Part

Name: _____

Free Supplement

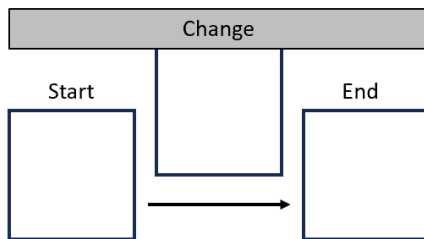
Teacher Led

A pizza has **6** slices, and Sarah ate **3** slices. **How many slices are left?**



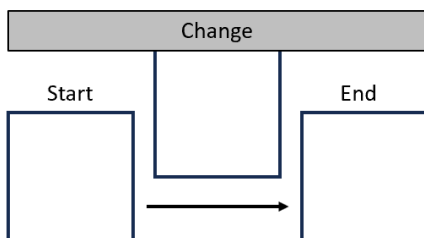
Teacher Guided

Sarah had 8 cookies, and she gave 3 cookies to her friend. **How many cookies does Sarah have now?**



Independent Problem

There were 10 fish in the fish bowl, but 3 fish died. **How many fish are left in the fish bowl now?**



Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led  ○  —  □  =	In a basket, there are 6 oranges and in a bucket, there are 3 oranges. How many oranges are there in all? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Teacher Guided    	The zoo has 3 monkeys in one cage and 3 monkeys in another cage. How many monkeys are there in total? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Independent Problem   	Sophie has 6 crayons in her bin and 4 crayons in her desk. How many crayons does Sophie have total? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				

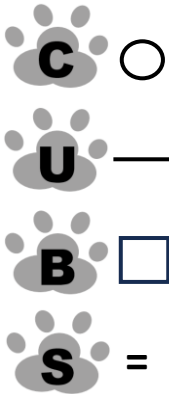
Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led

There are **8** ducks swimming in a pond, and **2** ducks swimming in another pond. **How many ducks are there altogether?**



Total	
Total	
Part	Part

Teacher Guided

John has 7 balloons in his room, and 2 balloons in his basement. How many balloons does he have total?



Total	
Total	
Part	Part

Independent Problem

Emma has 3 apples in her lunch box, and she has 3 apples in her locker. How many apples does Emma have in all?



Total	
Total	
Part	Part

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	There are 9 birds sitting on a tree branch, and 5 of them fly away. How many birds are still on the branch? Change Start End
 ○  —  □  =	Emma has 5 balloons, and 3 of them accidentally popped. How many balloons does Emma have now? Change Start End
    	In a box, there are 9 candies, and Timmy eats 4 of them. How many candies are left in the box? Change Start End
Independent Problem   	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

There are 10 pears in a fruit bowl, 7 of them are taken for a snack.
How many pears are left in the bowl?

A farmer had 3 chickens and 5 pigs. How many animals does he have
on his farm?

Jason has 8 toy cars, but he gives 4 of them to his friend. How many
toy cars does Jason have now?

Addition & Subtraction Result Unknown

The result unknown section has two types of problems: change problems, where the result of the change is unknown, and total or combining problems, where the total of the combined parts is unknown.

(Total: Part/Part/Whole Problems):

- Total or combining problems involve situations where the result of combining the parts is unknown.
- These are sometimes referred to as part/part/whole problems because they involve breaking down a whole into parts or combining parts to find the whole.

Total: Result Unknown

Tom had 8 blue marbles and 5 red marbles. How many marbles does he have total?

$$8 + 5 = ?$$

Total	
Total	
Part	Part

The unknown is the sum or total.

Addition & Subtraction Result Unknown

The result unknown section has two types of problems: change problems, where the result of the change is unknown, and combining problems, where the total of the combined parts is unknown.

Change Problems (Joining or Separating Problems):

- In change problems, the result is unknown because some kind of change occurs, such as an increase or decrease in quantity.
- These problems often involve scenarios where items are added together (joining) or taken away from each other (separating).

Increase Change: Result Unknown	Decrease Change: Result Unknown
Tom has 8 apples. Lisa gave him 5 apples. How many apples does Tom have all together? $8 + 5 = ?$ The unknown or end is the result of the change.	Tom has 13 apples. He gave 5 apples to Lisa. How many apples does Tom have now? $13 - 5 = ?$ The unknown or end is the result of the change.

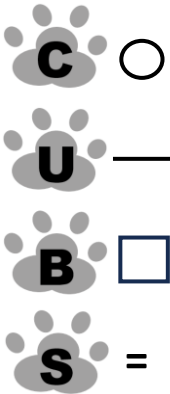
Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led

Jason has **9** pieces of candy. Sam has **7** pieces of candy.

How many pieces of candy do they have altogether?



Total	
Total	
Part	Part

Teacher
Guided

Cal saw 8 spiders. Fred saw 5 spiders. How many spiders did they see in all?



Total	
Total	
Part	Part

Independent
Problem

Jim drew 9 pictures. Emma drew 4 pictures. How many pictures did they draw combined?



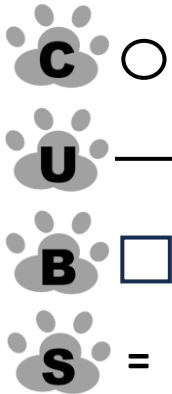
Total	
Total	
Part	Part

Name: _____

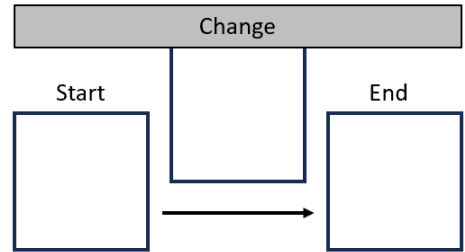
Addition / Subtraction
Result Unknown to 20
Lesson 2

Free Supplement

Teacher Led



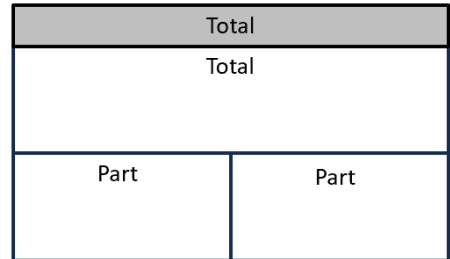
There are **7** butterflies in a garden, and then **8** more butterflies flew into the garden. **How many butterflies are in the garden total?**



Teacher Guided



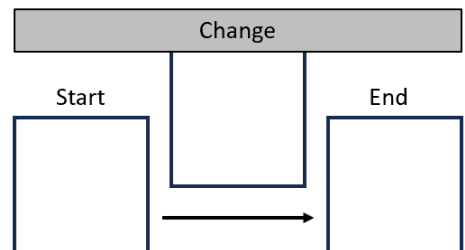
In a basket, there were 7 oranges and in another basket there were 8 oranges. How many oranges are there altogether?



Independent Problem



At the zoo, there were 6 monkeys playing in the trees, and 7 more monkeys joined them. How many monkeys in total?

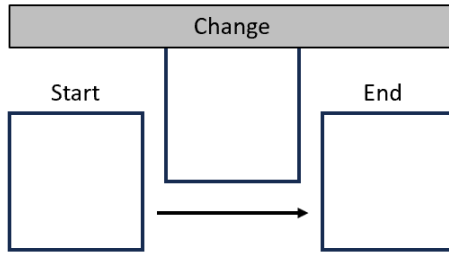
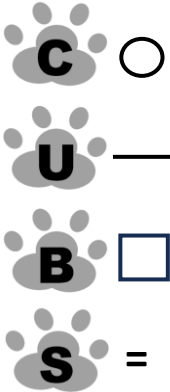


Name: _____

Free Supplement

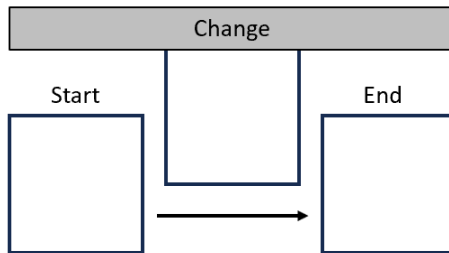
Teacher Led

Lisa had **14** candies, and she ate **7** of them. **How many candies does Lisa have left?**



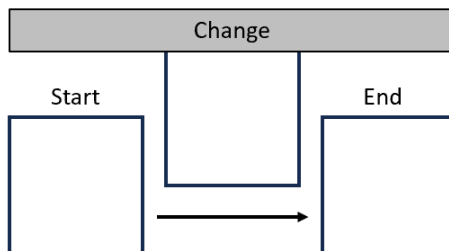
Teacher Guided

Sarah had 13 stickers, but she gave 6 to her friend. How many stickers does Sarah have now?



Independent Problem

In a box, there were 16 toy cars, 7 of them were taken out to play with. How many toy cars are still in the box?



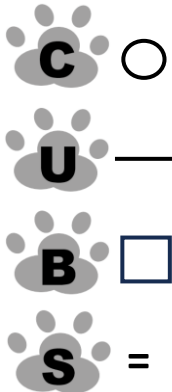
Main Menu

Name: _____

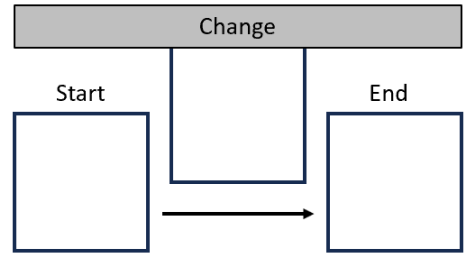
**Addition / Subtraction
Result Unknown to 20
Lesson 4**

Free Supplement

Teacher Led



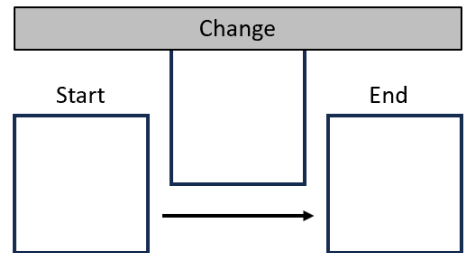
Bella had **20** marbles, and she decided to give **8** of them to her younger brother. **How many marbles does Bella have now?**



Teacher Guided



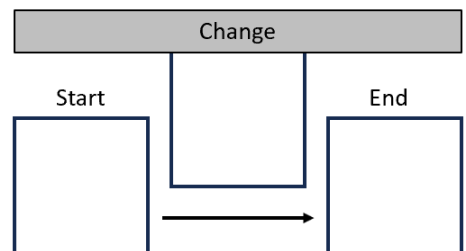
A bakery had 16 apple pies, and they sold 8 of them in the morning. How many apple pies are still available for the afternoon customers?



Independent Problem



Tom collected 14 seashells at the beach, but he accidentally dropped 5 of them back into the ocean. How many seashells does he have left?



Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led    	Emily had 13 apples, and her friend gave her 6 more. How many apples does Emily have now? Change Start End
Teacher Guided    	In a toy store, there were 12 teddy bears on the shelf. The owner brought 6 more teddy bears from the back room. How many teddy bears are there in total? Change Start End
Independent Problem   	James had \$15 last week and had \$5 this week. How much money has he saved in total? Total Total Part Part

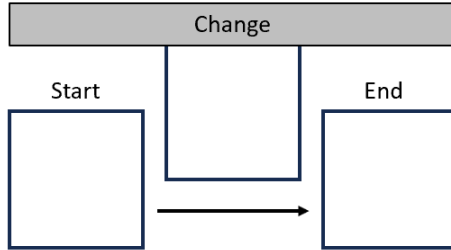
Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

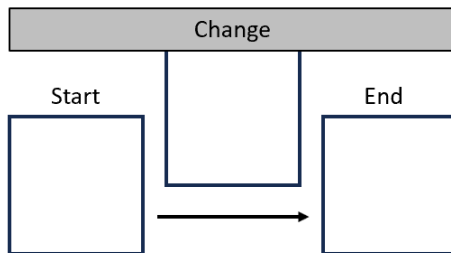
Teacher Led

A pizza has **12** slices, and Sarah ate **5** slices. **How many slices are left?**



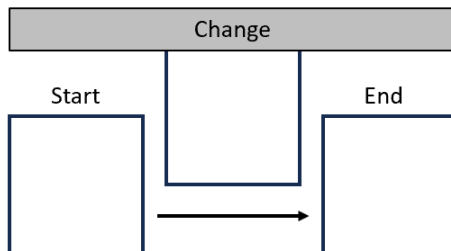
Teacher Guided

Sarah had 13 cookies, and she gave 7 cookies to her friend. How many cookies does Sarah have now?



Independent Problem

There were 17 fish in the fish bowl, but 9 fish died. How many fish are left in the fish bowl now?



Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led  ○  —  □  =	In a basket, there are 11 oranges and in a bucket there are 6 oranges. How many oranges are there in all? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Teacher Guided    	The zoo has 6 monkeys in one cage and 6 monkeys in another cage. How many monkeys are there in total? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Independent Problem   	Sophie has 9 crayons in her bin and 6 crayons in her desk. How many crayons does Sophie have total? <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				

Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led	There are 8 ducks swimming in a pond, and 8 ducks swimming in another pond. How many ducks are there altogether?         <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Teacher Guided	John has 7 balloons in his room, and 8 balloons in his basement. How many balloons does he have total?     <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				
Independent Problem	Emma has 6 apples in her lunch box, and she has 5 apples in her locker. How many apples does Emma have in all?    <table> <tr><th>Total</th></tr> <tr><td>Total</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part</td> <td>Part</td> </tr> </table>	Total	Total	Part	Part
Total					
Total					
Part	Part				

Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led    	There are 20 birds sitting on a tree branch, and 8 of them fly away. How many birds are still on the branch? Change Start End
Teacher Guided    	Emma has 12 balloons, and 5 of them accidentally popped. How many balloons does Emma have now? Change Start End
Independent Problem   	In a box, there are 15 candies, and Timmy eats 6 of them. How many candies are left in the box? Change Start End

Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

There are 20 pears in a fruit bowl, 8 of them are taken for a snack.
How many pears are left in the bowl?

A farmer had 13 chickens and 5 pigs. How many animals does he
have on his farm?

Jason has 17 toy cars, but he gives 9 of them to his friend. How many
toy cars does Jason have now?