

Word Problem Intervention

By Numeracy Consultants

Level 2



Addition and Subtraction to 1,000

Addition / Subtraction
Result Unknown to 100

Addition / Subtraction
Result Unknown to 1,000

Addition / Subtraction
Change/Part Unknown to 100

Addition / Subtraction
Change/Part Unknown to 1,000

Addition / Subtraction
Start Unknown to 100

Addition / Subtraction
Start Unknown to 1,000

Comparison
Difference Unknown to 100

Comparison
Difference Unknown to 1,000

Larger / Smaller
Quantity Unknown to 100

Larger / Smaller
Quantity Unknown to 1,000

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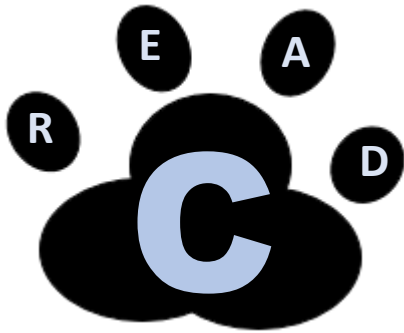
Numeracy Consultants: Addition and Subtraction Level 2



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CUBS Strategy



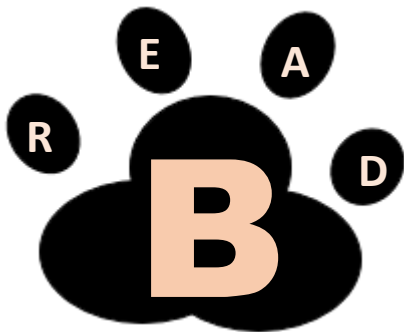
Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



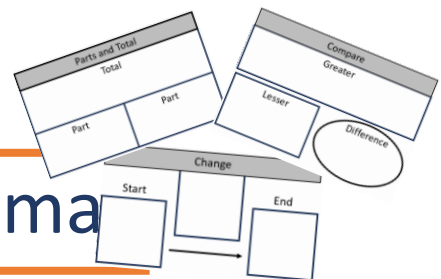
Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

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



Reread and

Build the Schema



Build the problem using a graphic organizer.

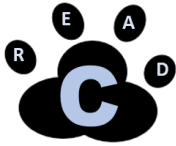


Summarize and Solve



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

CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



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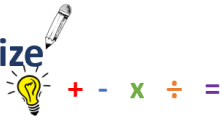


Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.

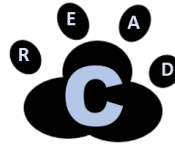


Summarize and Solve



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CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



Reread the Problem and Understand the Schema?

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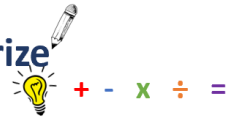


Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



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CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

Say what is happening in your own words.



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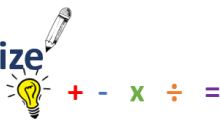


Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



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CUBS Strategy



Read the Problem and Comprehend

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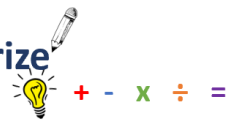


Reread and Build the Schema

Build the problem using a graphic organizer.



Summarize and Solve



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CUBS Strategy — Classroom Implementation Guide

Step-by-step guide for teaching math word problems

C

STEP 1 · COMPREHEND

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

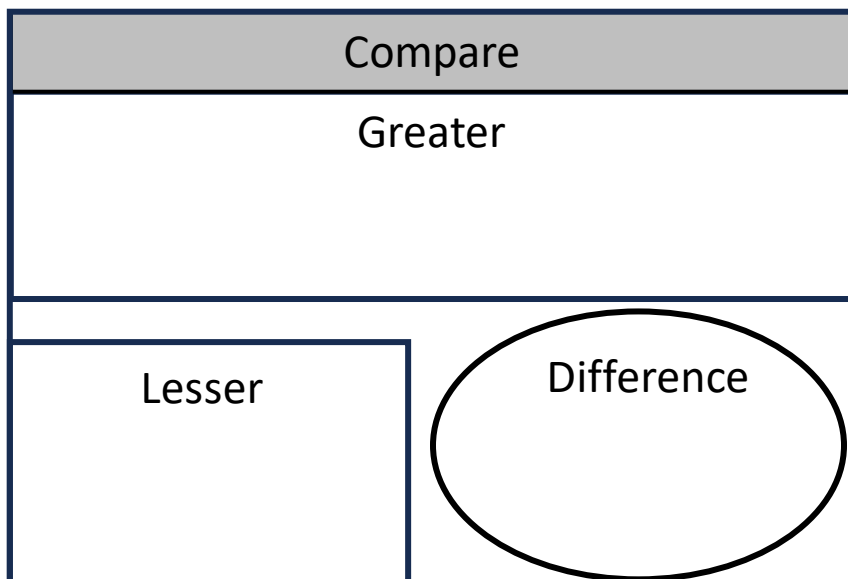
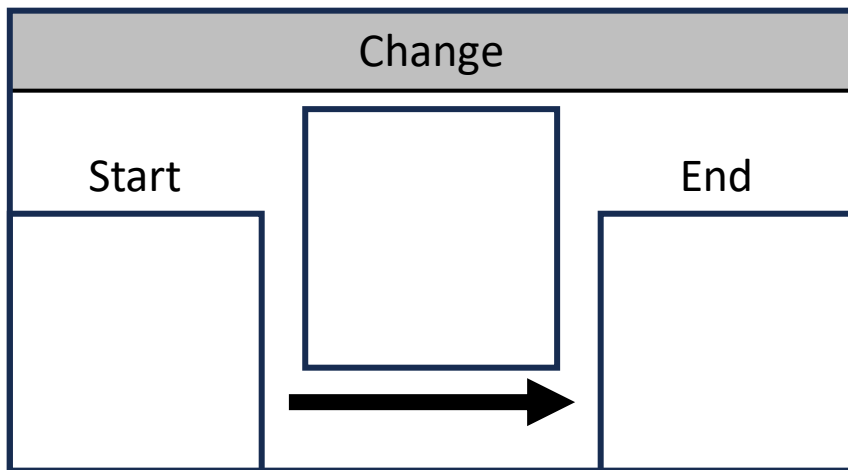
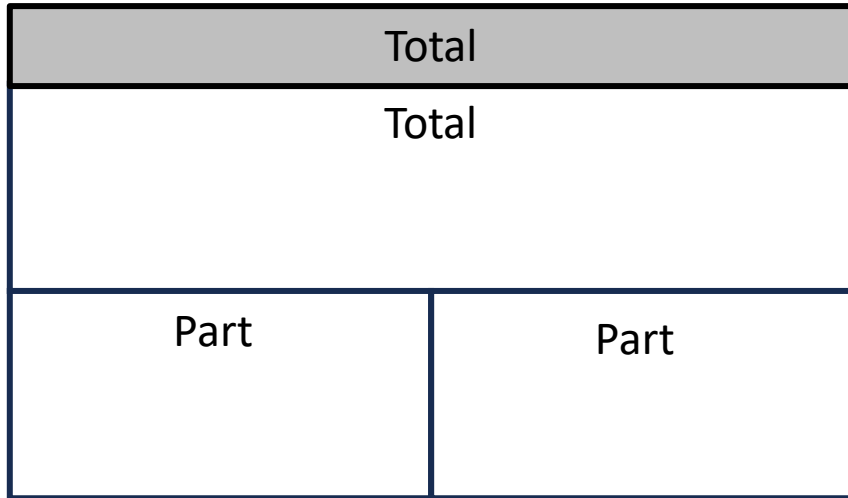
Write the equation — solve and check

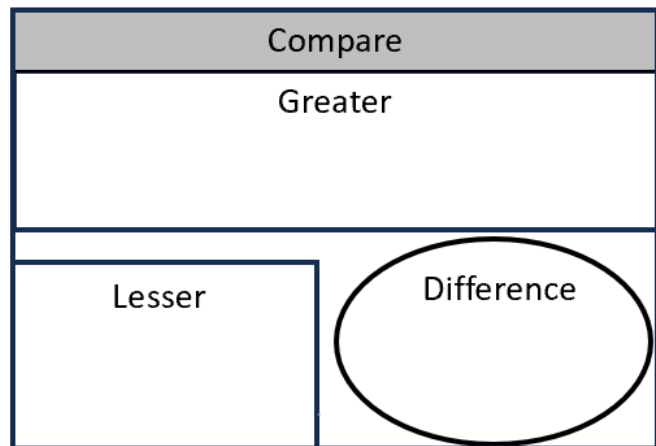
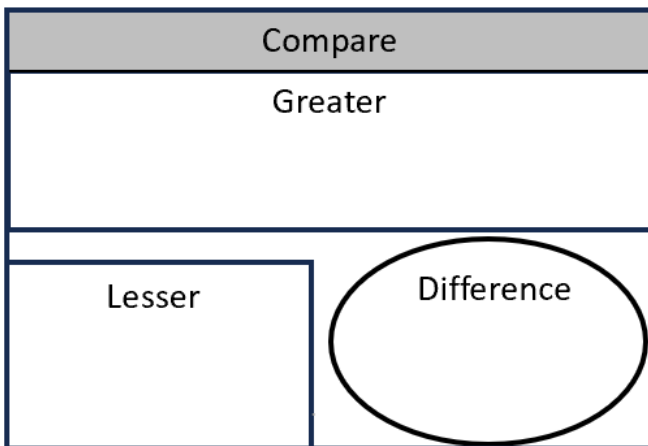
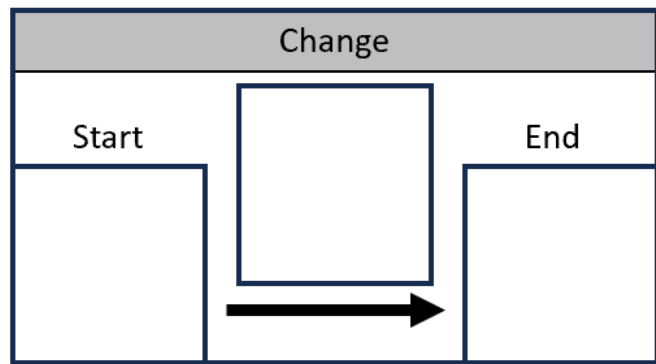
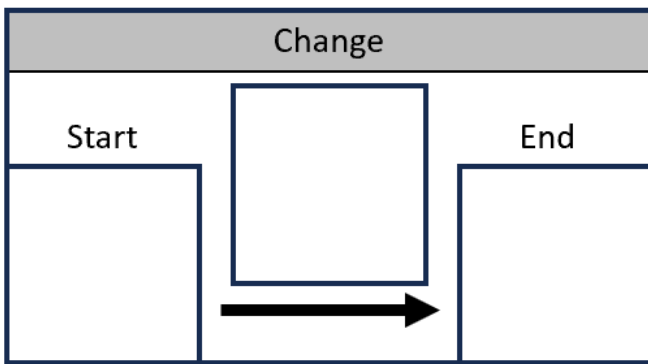
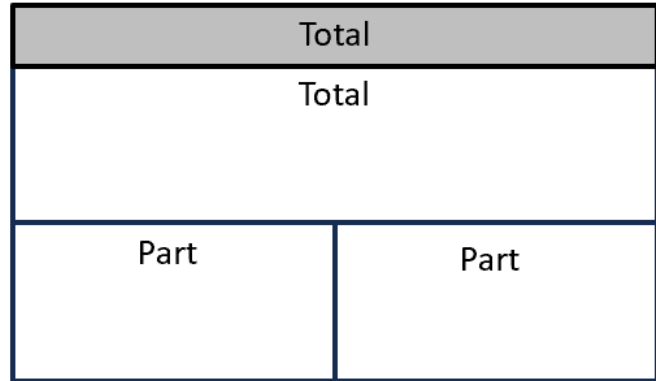
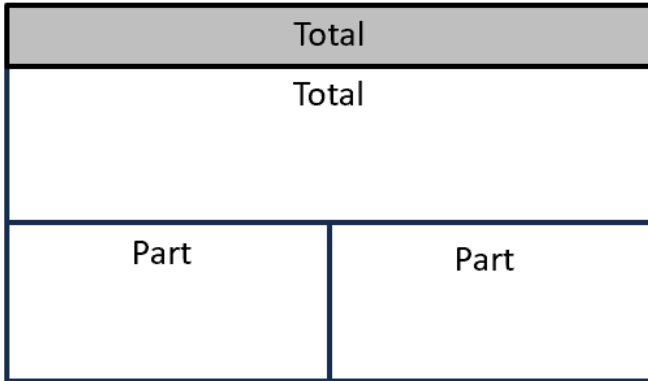
- Use the graphic organizer to write a number sentence. Ask: "What operation does this schema require?"
- Solve using any strategy. Write a complete answer sentence tied to the story context.
- Check: reread the problem with the answer plugged in — does it make sense?

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

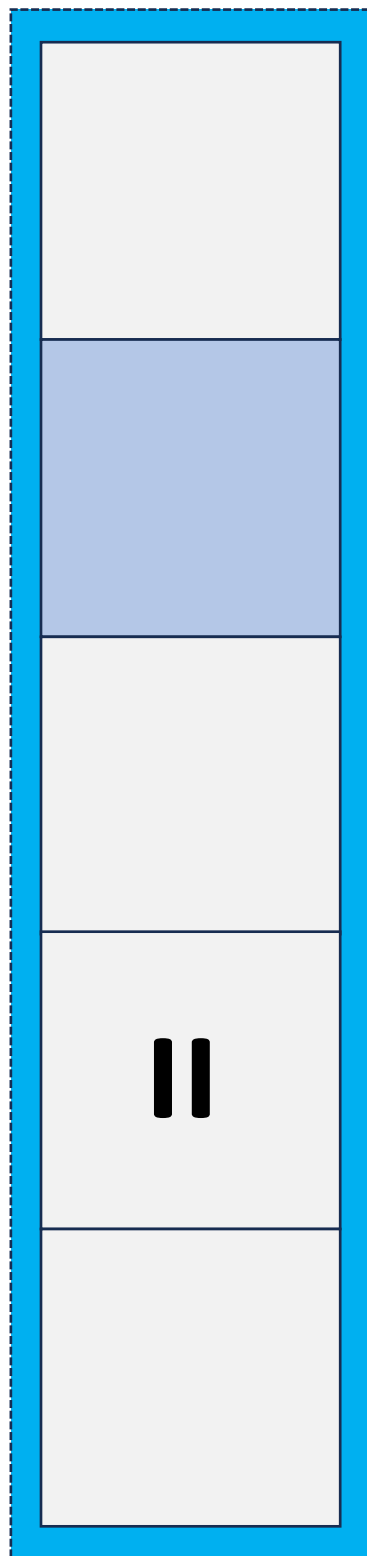
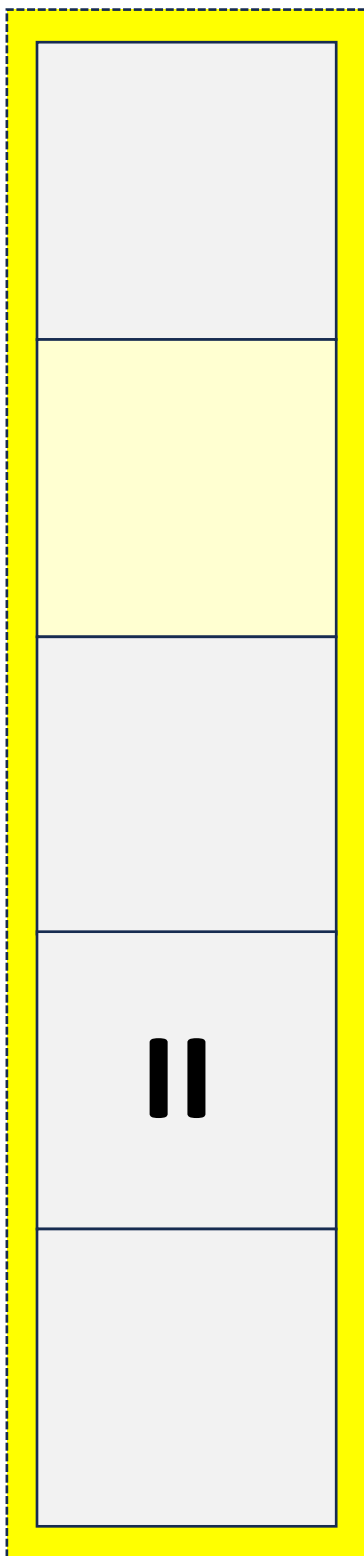
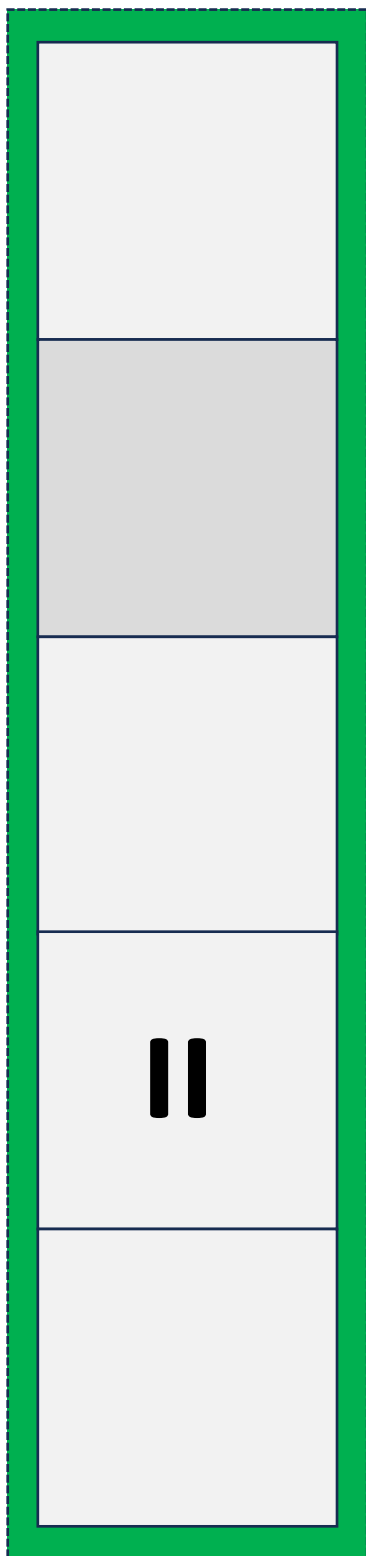
Rollout suggestion: Introduce one letter at a time over several days before using the full process. Model each step with think-alouds, then move to partner work, then independent practice. Post an anchor chart with all four steps visible throughout the unit.

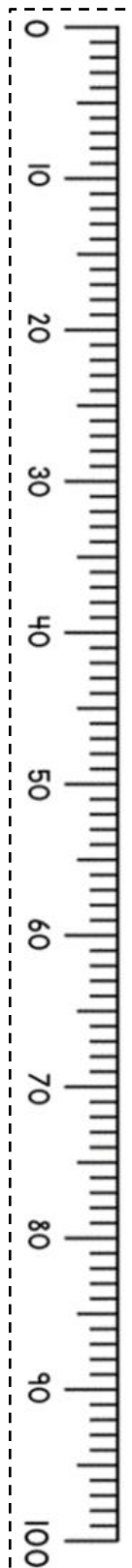
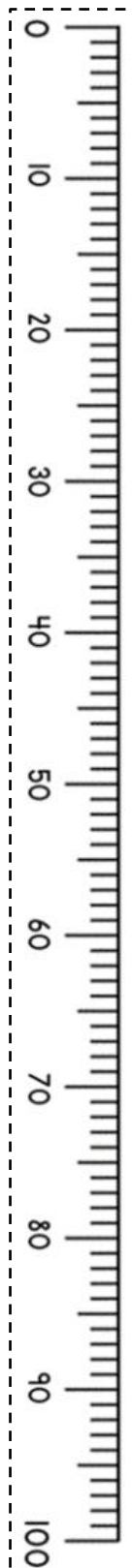
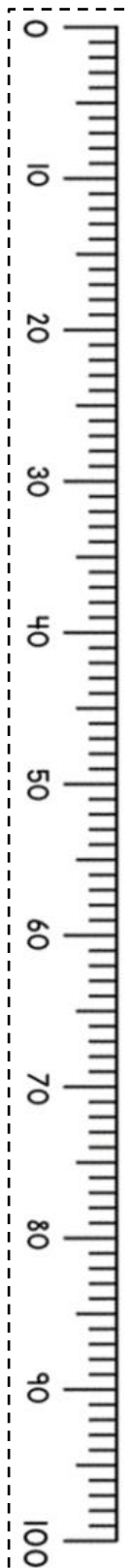
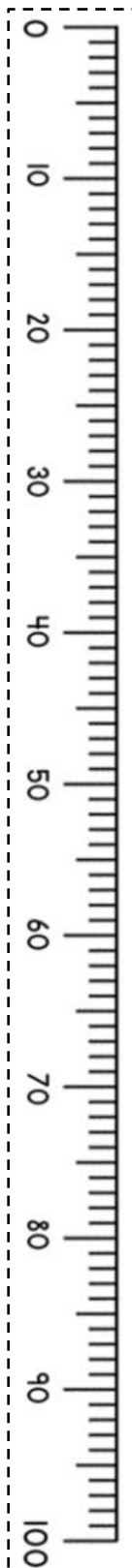
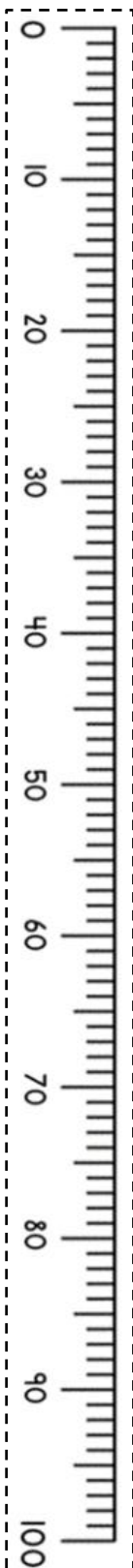
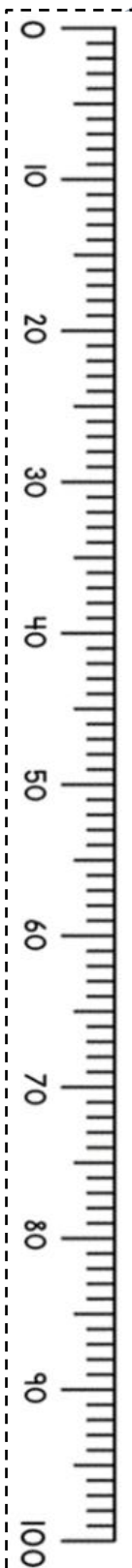
Free Supplement

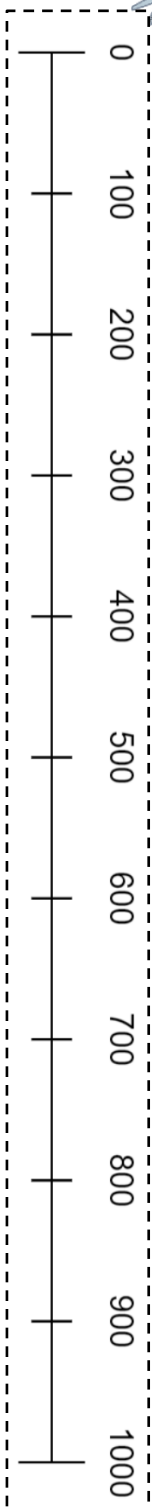
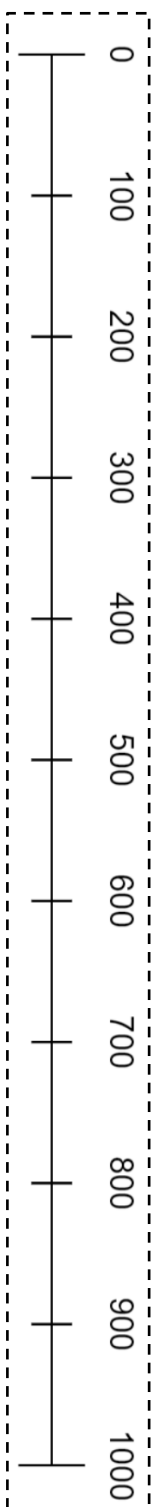
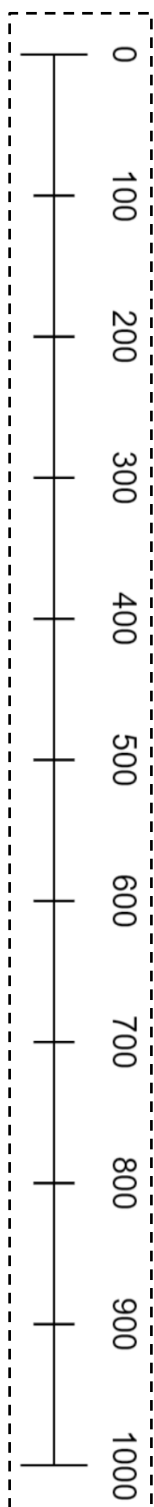
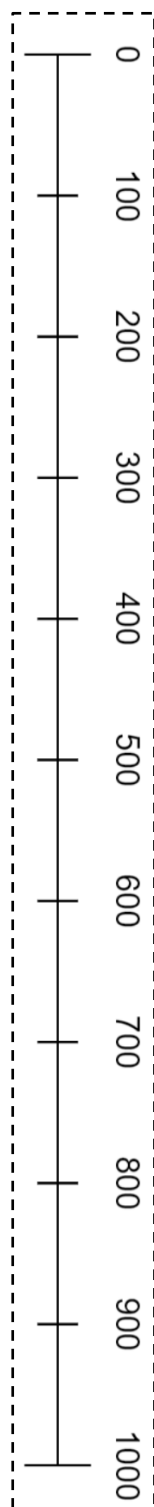
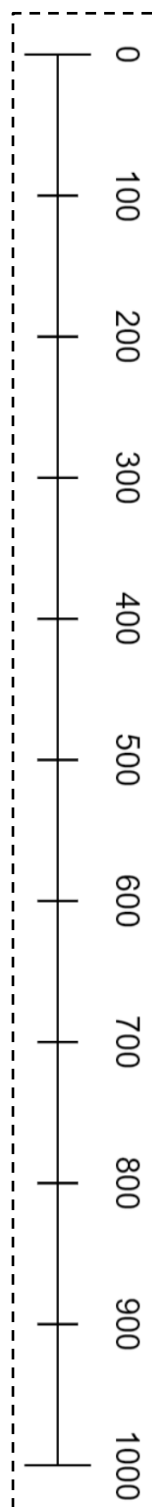




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Addition & Subtraction Result Unknown

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 25 pieces of candy. Sam has 43 pieces of candy. How many pieces of candy do they have altogether?
C ○ U — B □ S =	
Teacher Guided	Cal saw 34 spiders. Fred saw 28 spiders. How many spiders did they see in all?
Independent Problem	Jim drew 54 pictures. Emma drew 27 pictures. How many pictures did they draw combined?

Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	There are 47 butterflies in a garden, and then 32 more butterflies flew into the garden. How many butterflies are in the garden total?
	C U B S ○ — □ =	
	Teacher Guided	In a basket, there were 35 oranges and in another basket there were 19 oranges. How many oranges are there altogether?
	Independent Problem	At the zoo, there were 16 monkeys playing in the trees, and 17 more monkeys joined them. How many monkeys in total?

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led	Lisa had 86 candies, and she ate 12 of them. How many candies does Lisa have left?
C ○ U — B □ S =	
Teacher Guided	Sarah had 67 stickers, but she gave 31 to her friend. How many stickers does Sarah have now?
Independent Problem	In a box, there were 45 toy cars, 27 of them were taken out to play with. How many toy cars are still in the box?

Main Menu

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Bella had 50 marbles, and she decided to give 26 of them to her younger brother. How many marbles does Bella have now?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	A bakery had 42 apple pies, and they sold 28 of them in the morning. How many apple pies are still available for the afternoon customers?
	
Independent Problem	Tom collected 70 seashells at the beach, but he accidentally dropped 25 of them back into the ocean. How many seashells does he have left?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	Emily had 33 apples, and her friend gave her 38 more. How many apples does Emily have now?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	In a toy store, there were 45 teddy bears on the shelf. The owner brought 45 more teddy bears from the back room. How many teddy bears are there in total?
	Independent Problem	James saved \$35 last week and saved \$48 this week. How much money has he saved in total?

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	A pizza has 24 slices, and Sarah ate 12 slices. How many slices are left?
       	
Teacher Guided	Sarah had 38 cookies, and she gave 14 cookies to her friend. How many cookies does Sarah have now?
	
Independent Problem	There were 30 fish in the fish bowl, but 14 fish died. How many fish are left in the fish bowl now?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	In a basket, there are 56 oranges and in a bucket there are 26 oranges. How many oranges are there in all?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	The zoo has 33 monkeys in one cage and 43 monkeys in another cage. How many monkeys are there in total?
   	
Independent Problem	Sophie has 66 crayons in her bin and 25 crayons in her desk. How many crayons does Sophie have total?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	There are 58 ducks swimming in a pond, and 23 ducks swimming in another pond. How many ducks are there altogether?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	John has 47 balloons in his room, and 22 balloons in his basement. How many balloons does he have total?
	   	
	Independent Problem	Emma has 23 apples in her lunch box, and she has 53 apples in her locker. How many apples does Emma have in all?
	  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	There are 92 birds sitting in a tree, and 55 of them fly away. How many birds are still in the tree?
 C   U   B   S 	
Teacher Guided	Emma has 50 balloons, and 35 of them accidentally popped. How many balloons does Emma have now?
   	
Independent Problem	In a box, there are 49 candies, and Timmy eats 24 of them. How many candies are left in the box?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

There are 36 pears in a fruit bowl, 18 of them are taken for a snack.
How many pears are left in the bowl?

A farmer had 30 chickens and 25 pigs. How many animals does he
have on his farm?

Jason has 32 toy cars, but he gives 14 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):

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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

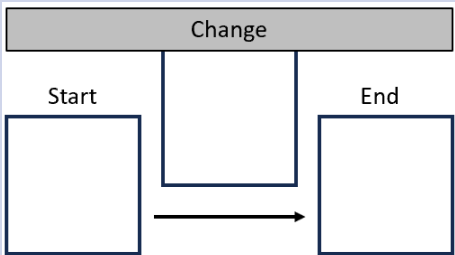
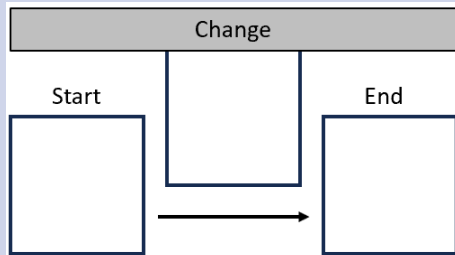
The unknown is the sum or total.

Addition & Subtraction Result Unknown

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Change Problems (Joining or Separating Problems):

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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

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Jason has 225 pieces of candy. Sam has 543 pieces of candy. How many pieces of candy do they have altogether?
       	
Teacher Guided	Cal saw 434 spiders. Fred saw 428 spiders. How many spiders did they see in all?
   	
Independent Problem	Jim drew 254 pictures. Emma drew 327 pictures. How many pictures did they draw combined?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	There are 347 butterflies in a garden, and then 312 more butterflies flew into the garden. How many butterflies are in the garden total?
 ○	
 —	
 □	
 =	
Teacher Guided	In a basket, there were 135 oranges and in another basket there were 119 oranges. How many oranges are there altogether?
	
	
	
	
Independent Problem	At the zoo, there were 116 monkeys playing in the trees, and 217 more monkeys joined them. How many monkeys in total?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Lisa had 526 candies, and she ate 112 of them. How many candies does Lisa have left?
 C ○  U —  B □  S =	
Teacher Guided	Sarah had 415 stickers, but she gave 257 to her friend. How many stickers does Sarah have now?
   	
Independent Problem	In a box, there were 312 toy cars, 177 of them were taken out to play with. How many toy cars are still in the box?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Bella had 530 marbles, and she decided to give 126 of them to her younger brother. How many marbles does Bella have now?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	A bakery had 642 apple pies, and they sold 258 of them in the morning. How many apple pies are still available for the afternoon customers?
   	
Independent Problem	Tom collected 346 seashells at the beach, but he accidentally dropped 125 of them back into the ocean. How many seashells does he have left?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Emily had 633 apples, and her friend gave her 89 more. How many apples does Emily have now?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	In a toy store, there were 415 teddy bears on the shelf. The owner brought 85 more teddy bears from the back room. How many teddy bears are there in total?
   	
Independent Problem	James saved \$135 last week and saved \$148 this week. How much money has he saved in total?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	A jumbo pizza has 200 slices, and Sarah ate 25 slices. How many slices are left?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	Sarah had 318 cookies, and she gave 124 cookies to her friend. How many cookies does Sarah have now?
   	
Independent Problem	There were 200 fish in the fish tank, but 75 fish died. How many fish are left in the fish tank now?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	In a basket, there are 156 oranges and in a bucket there are 86 oranges. How many oranges are there in all?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	The zoo has 83 monkeys in one cage and 63 monkeys in another cage. How many monkeys are there in total?
   	
Independent Problem	Sophie has 266 crayons in her bin and 144 crayons in her desk. How many crayons does Sophie have total?
  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led

There are **238** ducks swimming in a pond, and **212** ducks swimming in another pond. **How many ducks are there altogether?**



Teacher
Guided

John has 237 balloons in his room, and 322 balloons in his basement. How many balloons does he have total?



Independent
Problem

Emma has 43 apples in her lunch box, and she has 83 apples in her locker. How many apples does Emma have in all?



Name: _____

Free Supplement

Teacher Led

There are **792** birds sitting in a tree, and **155** of them fly away. **How many birds are still in the tree?**



Teacher
Guided

Emma has 125 balloons, and 35 of them accidentally popped. How many balloons does Emma have now?



Independent
Problem

In a box, there are 149 candies, and Timmy eats 58 of them. How many candies are left in the box?



Name: _____

Free Supplement

There are 136 pears in a fruit bowl, 67 of them are taken for a snack.
How many pears are left in the bowl?

A farmer had 332 chickens and 125 pigs. How many animals does he
have on his farm?

Jason has 232 toy cars, but he gives 107 of them to his friend. How
many toy cars does Jason have now?

Addition & Subtraction

Change Unknown / Part Unknown

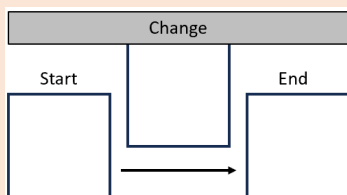
The two types of problems that will be found under the "Change/ Part Unknown" section are as follows: The first is "Change Unknown," and the second is "Part/Part/Whole" with a part unknown.

Change Unknown Problems:

In these types of problems, the change or difference is unknown. The situation typically involves some action that either increases or decreases a quantity, but the exact change is what needs to be determined. For example:

Change Unknown

Tom has 8 apples. Lisa gave him some more. Tom now has 13 apples. How many apples did Lisa give Tom?



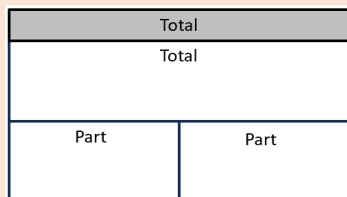
$$8 + \boxed{?} = 13$$

$$13 - 8 = \boxed{?}$$

Total: Part/Part/Whole with Unknowns: This type of problem involves combining or adding quantities where one of the parts is missing or unknown. The goal is to determine the missing quantity. For example:

Total: Part Unknown

Mary has 12 oranges and she has some apples. She has 18 pieces of fruit total. How many apples does she have?



$$12 + \boxed{?} = 18$$

$$18 - 12 = \boxed{?}$$

Both types of problems fall under the broader category of "Change Unknown or Part Unknown," as they involve determining an unknown change or quantity. These types of word problems are common in elementary and middle school math curricula, serving to develop students' understanding of addition, subtraction, and problem-solving skills.

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	Tim has 156 toy cars. His friend gave him some more cars, and now he has 272 toy cars in total. How many cars did his friend give him?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	Lisa has 134 stickers. She bought some more stickers at the store and now has 250 stickers. How many stickers did Lisa buy?
	   	
	Independent Problem	Emily had 245 candies. Her friend gave her some more candies, and now she has 568 candies. How many candies did her friend give her?
	  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Mike had 259 toy blocks. He gave a lot of blocks to his sister and now has 134 toy blocks left. How many blocks did Mike give to his sister?
 ○  —  □  =	
Teacher Guided	Tom had 388 cookies. He ate a lot and now has 247 cookies left. How many cookies did Tom eat?
	
Independent Problem	Bella put 749 crayons in the box. Her brother took a lot out. There are 425 crayons left in the box. How many crayons did her brother take?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	Hannah has 512 candles. Her mom has some candles too. Together, they have 715 candles. How many candles does her mom have?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	There were 224 apples in the basket. There are some more apples in a bucket. There are 309 apples in total. How many apples are in the bucket?
	Independent Problem	Ethan had 116 marbles in his pocket, and he has some marbles in his room. He has 228 marbles altogether. How many marbles are in his room?

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	C ○ U — B □ S = Lisa had \$440 in her piggy bank. She spent some of it and now has \$224 left. How much did Lisa spend?
	Teacher Guided	Ethan had 166 pencils. He gave some pencils to his cousin, and now he has 88 pencils. How many pencils did Ethan give to his cousin?
	Independent Problem	Emily had 200 balloons for her birthday party. Some of the balloons popped. Now, she has 125 balloons. How many balloons popped?

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Joe had 348 toy cars. He gave some cars as gifts and now has 225 cars left. How many cars did Joe give as gifts?
○ — □ =	
Teacher Guided	Sarah had 886 pencils. She gave some pencils to the class bin. She now has 558 pencils remaining. How many pencils did she give to the class bin?
   	
Independent Problem	Mark had 850 marbles. He lost some marbles in a game and now has 712 marbles. How many marbles did Mark lose?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	Emily made 576 cookies. After lunch, she made some more. She now has 912 cookies. How many did she make after lunch?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	A candy store made 453 candy bars in the morning. In the afternoon, they made some more candy bars. At the end of the day, they had 675 candy bars. How many did the store make in the afternoon?
	Independent Problem	In the morning, a bakery baked 312 loaves of bread. Later in the day, they baked some more loaves. By the end of the day, they had 489 loaves in total. How many loaves did the bakery bake later in the day?

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	Jake had 233 goldfish. He also had some bluefish. He has 439 fish altogether in his tank. How many bluefish does Jake have?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	Lily had 652 seashells in her pocket, and she has some seashells in her bucket. She has 812 seashells in total. How many seashells are in Lily’s bucket?
	Independent Problem	Max had 438 chocolate bars. His cousin has some chocolate bars too. Together, they have 620 chocolate bars. How many chocolate bars does his cousin have?

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu

Teacher Led	Ava had 349 toy blocks. 144 of the blocks are green; the rest are red. How many red blocks does Ava have?
○ — □ =	
Teacher Guided	A Card Show had 412 trading cards. 213 of the cards are baseball cards; the rest are football cards. How many football cards does the Card Show have?
	
Independent Problem	Mia had 649 stickers. 470 of the stickers are smiley faces; the rest are unicorns. How many unicorn stickers does Mia have?
	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Main Menu	Teacher Led	Olivia had 459 seashells. 213 of the shells are white; the rest are pink. How many seashells are pink?
	       	
	Teacher Guided	Emily has 832 markers. 436 of the markers are red; the rest are green. How many green markers does she have?
	   	
	Independent Problem	Mia had 816 hair scrunchies. 513 of the scrunchies are pink; the rest are black. How many scrunchies are black?
	  	

Name: _____

Free Supplement

Alex had 318 apples. He gave some apples to his friend, and now he has 169 apples left. How many apples did Alex give to his friend?

Emily had 204 stickers. Her friend gave some stickers to her, and now she has 428 stickers. How many stickers did Emily's friend give her?

Lucas had 545 balloons. He gave away some balloons to his cousins, and now he has only 323 balloons left. How many balloons did Lucas give to his cousins?