

Unit 8

Family Letter

Reveal
MATH[®]

Dear Family,

In this unit, Meanings of Subtraction, we will be learning how to solve word problems that involve subtraction.

STEM Career Kid for this Unit

Hi, I'm Ruby.

I want to be a veterinarian. Veterinarians use math when they determine how many treats they have left to give to animals.



What math terms will your child use?

Term	Student Understanding
difference	the difference between the total and the amount taken away; for example, in the equation $15 - 7 = 8$, 8 is the difference
subtract	to take away, take apart, separate, or find the difference between two sets
unknown	a missing number, or the number to be solved for

What can your child do at home?

Practice subtracting with your child. This unit focuses on solving word problems, of which being able to properly subtract numbers is a crucial part. Look for opportunities in everyday life to practice subtracting, whether in the kitchen, in the grocery store, or while out on a walk.



What Will Students Learn in this Unit?

Solving Difference Unknown Problems

Your child will learn how to solve subtraction problems when the difference is unknown. These problems are easily identifiable by the format in which they are given. There will be a total number of objects, and some objects are taken away. Students will find the difference between these two numbers. Students are encouraged to draw representations to solve the problems.

Example:

There are 12 ants by the ant hill. 8 ants walk away. How many ants are left?



$$12 - 8 = ?$$

$$12 - 8 = 4$$

So, 4 ants are left.

Solving Problems When Both Parts Are Unknown

Your child will also learn to solve subtraction problems when both parts are unknown. These problems may be troublesome to some students due to the fact that there can be multiple correct answers. When both parts are unknown, students are required to find two numbers that have a total equal to the given number.

Example:

There are 13 grapes on a plate. Some are green and some are purple. How many green grapes and how many purple grapes are on the plate?

Your child will learn to make an equation to show the problem using ? for the unknowns.

$$13 = ? + ?$$

Three possible answers for the word problem include:

10 green grapes and 3 purple grapes

7 green grapes and 6 purple grapes

5 green grapes and 8 purple grapes

