Y4 Negative Numbers

KS2 Y4 Maths · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Count back in 1s from 3 to –3.

Step 1 · Count back to zero

3, 2, 1, 0

Step 2 · Keep going below zero

–1, –2, –3

Answer: 3, 2, 1, 0, –1, –2, –3

Check: The numbers on each side of zero mirror each other: 1 and –1, 2 and –2 ✓

2. Now try one with the steps

The temperature is 2°C. It falls by 5 degrees. What is it now?

Step 1 · Count back 2 to reach zero

Step 2 · Count back 3 more

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Count back in 1s: 2, 1, 0, __. What comes next?

2. Count back in 1s: 0, –1, –2, __. What comes next?

3. Count back in 2s: 6, 4, 2, 0, __. What comes next?

4. Count back in 5s: 10, 5, 0, __. What comes next?

5. A thermometer shows 4 degrees below zero. Write the temperature using a minus sign.

6. Fill the gap: 3, 2, 1, __, –1

7. Fill the gap: –2, –3, __, –5

8. Start at 1 and count back 4. Where do you land?

9. It is 3°C. The temperature falls by 6 degrees. What is the new temperature?

10. Count back in 10s: 30, 20, 10, 0, __, __. Write the next two numbers.

11. Count back in 3s from 6: 6, 3, 0, __. What comes next?

12. Which is colder: –1°C or –6°C?

13. Order from coldest to warmest: 2°C, –5°C, 0°C, –1°C

14. A lift is on floor 2. It goes down 4 floors. Floor 0 is the ground floor. Which floor is it on now?

4. Before you hand it in

Counting back 2, 1, –1, –2 and missing out 0.
Zero is a step too. 2, 1, 0, –1, –2.

Thinking –7 is bigger than –2 because 7 is bigger than 2.
On a number line, –7 is further left, so it is smaller. –7°C is colder than –2°C.

Writing 4 degrees below zero as 4°C.

Below zero needs a minus sign: −4 °C. 4 °C is above zero.

Counting back in 5s from 10 as 10, 5, 0, −10.

Every jump is the same size: 10, 5, 0, −5, −10.