Choosing Subtraction Strategies

Adult Guidance with Question Prompts

Children find the difference between two numbers by using bar models and number lines. They build fluency of finding the difference between two numbers by working out the gap. They answer questions using the terms: more than, fewer than and difference. Children would benefit from having access to representations of tens and ones to support their learning.

The number by each picture shows the number of minibeasts.

Which two minibeasts are you comparing first?
How many butterflies are there?
How many ladybirds are there?
What do you know about the two numbers?
What can you do to find the difference?
Complete the calculations.
How can you check they are correct?

What does greatest difference mean?
Which numbers would be useful to compare?
Which strategy would help you find the difference?
How do you know that you have found the greatest difference? Are there any other numbers that you would like to compare to make sure that you have found the greatest difference?
Use the same prompts for finding the smallest difference.

Pick two minibeasts.
Show me how to compare their numbers.
How many more or how many fewer are there?
What can you do to check?

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Can you help us with our minibeast quiz?

Samira

Adam

Find the difference between the butterflies and ladybirds.

 **52 - ☐ = 47** **47 + ☐ = 52** 

Which two minibeasts have the greatest difference?

☐ and ☐ have a difference of ☐.

Which two minibeasts have the smallest difference?

☐ and ☐ have a difference of ☐.

Pick 2 minibeasts and complete the sentences.

There are ☐ more ☐ than ☐.

There are ☐ more ☐ than ☐.

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Children select subtraction strategies to solve problems. They check statements about number comparisons, using the terms more than, fewer than and difference. Children explain how they know if a statement is correct or not and prove it by selecting and applying efficient subtraction strategies. Children would benefit from having access to number lines to support their learning.

The numbers tell you how many minibeasts can be found.

Which two minibeasts did Adam and Samira compare?

What do you know about the two numbers?

Do you think Adam and Samira are correct?

Can you explain why? Why not?

What can you do to find the difference? Is there another way?

Which way was the fastest or most efficient? Why?

Would you change Adam and Samira's statement? How?

What do they need to remember next time?

Repeat for each problem.

What strategy has Samira used?

Is this the best strategy for numbers with a large difference?

What would be a better strategy?

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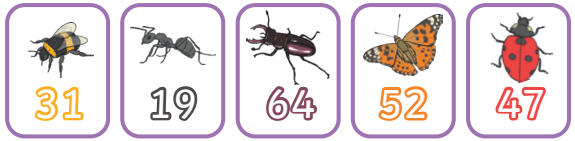
Adam

We have some fun facts.

Are they all correct? How do you know?

Samira



There are 13 more butterflies than beetles.

64 – 13 = 52 52 + 13 = 64

The difference between the ants and bees is the smallest because they have the smallest value.

There are 16 less bees than ladybirds.

47 – 16 = 31 31 + 16 = 47

The difference between the butterflies and beetles is the greatest because they have the greatest value.

Samira

I can use a bar model to find the difference between 13 and 67.

Is this the best strategy? Prove it.

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Children select subtraction strategies to solve problems. They solve number comparisons using the terms more than, fewer than and difference. Children explain their reasoning as they select and apply efficient subtraction strategies. They would benefit from having access to number lines to support their learning.

How many differences do you think you will find?
How can you make sure that you've found all the possibilities?
Will you use the same strategy to compare all the numbers?
Why?
Did you find more or less differences than you predicted?
Why do you think this happened?
Which two numbers have the smallest difference?
What can you do to check?
Which two numbers have the greatest difference?
Will you use the same strategy to compare these numbers?
Can you explain why?

How can you work out the number of snails?
What information do you have?
Which strategy will you use to find the answer?
Is there another way?
Which strategy was the most efficient or fastest?
Repeat for worms.

Create clues to help your friends find out how many minibeasts there are.

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Compare the numbers of minibeasts.


Samira


15


26


72


63


47

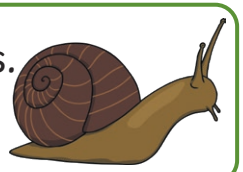

Adam

How many differences can you find?

What is the smallest difference?

What is the greatest difference?

There are 28 fewer snails than beetles.
How many snails are there?



There are 19 more worms than butterflies.
How many worms are there?

Can you think of more minibeasts?
Make clues for your friends to solve using the words:

more than

difference

fewer than