## Negative Numbers

- Understand negative numbers
- Count forwards and backwards with positive and negative numbers
- Find the next terms in a sequence


## What are Negative Numbers?

Numbers below zero are called negative numbers. They have a 'minus' sign in front of them to show that they are negative numbers, for example $-14,-465$.
If you look at a number line, you can see that negative numbers count from 0 in the opposite direction to positive numbers.


## Example

5 is greater than 2.


$$
\text { So, }-3 \text { is GREATER than }-5 \text {. }
$$

SMALLER NUMBERS
GREATER NUMBERS

## Counting Using Negative Numbers

You can count back from 10 in 2 s by taking away 2 each time:


If you continue to count back in 2 s , you can go beyond zero into negative numbers.


## Counting Sequences

You can count on or back from any number in equal steps. This is called a sequence.
You need to be able to count on or back from any number in jumps of any size.

## Example

Counting from 5 in steps of 4: $5,9,13,17 \ldots$
Count back in 100s from 953:

## Tip

Always check your arithmetic carefully when counting on and back - it's easy to make mistakes!

Sometimes you are not given the steps.

## Example

What are the next three terms or numbers in this sequence?
4, 10, 16, $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
First you need to work out the jump between each number in our sequence.


To jump from 4 to 10 , you add 6.
To jump from 10 to 16, you add 6.

You can find the next terms by adding 6 each time.


## Key Words

- Negative number
- Positive number
- Sequence
- Term

