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**.



Counting Using Negative Numbers

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



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



Key Point

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The nearer a negative number is to zero on a number line, the greater or bigger it is.

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: Count back in 100s from 953:

5, 9, 13, 17... 953, 853, 753...

Sometimes you are not given the steps.

Example

What are the next three **terms** or numbers in this sequence?

4, 10, 16, ______ ____

First you need to work out the jump between each number in our sequence.





Quick Test

- **1.** Order these numbers from smallest to largest: 10 -3 5 -9 6 -2 0 -5
- 2. Fill in the next three terms counting back in 3s:
 4 1 -2 _____ ____
- **3.** Fill in the next three terms counting on in 50s: -50 0 _____ ___

Key Words

- Negative number
- Positive number
- Sequence
- Term

Tip

Always check your

arithmetic carefully when counting on

and back – it's easy to make mistakes!