

How Many Are Left?

Purpose

Students will use objects to show the meaning of subtraction (taking away, comparing, finding the difference).

Materials

For the teacher: overhead counting chips, overhead projector, blank overhead transparency

For each student: copy of Black Line Master (BLM) *How Many Are Left?*

For each group of 3 students: 10 small counting objects

Activity

A. Introduction

1. Place some counting chips (fewer than 10) on the overhead.
2. Ask students: "How many chips do you see?"
3. Say: "I will take [insert number] away."
4. Ask: "How many are left?"
5. Write the following sentence on the overhead transparency:
[insert original number of counters] take away [insert number taken away] equals [insert number remaining] left.

B. Student Activity

1. Divide students into groups of three, and give each group ten small counting objects.
2. Have the first student in the group decide how many objects to start with saying: "Start with [insert number]."
3. Ask the second student to decide how many to take away, saying: "Take away [insert number]."
4. Direct the third student to say: "[number of objects remaining] left."
5. Have group members rotate being "start" person, etc.

C. Review

1. Give each student a copy of the BLM *How Many Are Left?*
2. Have students complete the BLM.

connecting
across the
curriculum



English/ Language Arts

Read *Ten Flashing Fireflies* by Philemon Sturges. Have students use counting pieces to model the subtraction that is happening in the story. Later have students use pieces to retell this story to a partner.

INCORPORATING
TECHNOLOGY




Have students use word processing clip art to show subtraction. Have one student draw objects and a second student remove some of the objects. Have students talk about their subtraction problems.


Standards Links
1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.4


Questions for Review


Basic Concepts and Processes


At the end of the activity, have students use the counting objects to answer the following questions:

 How many objects do I have in front of me?

 How many did I take away?

 How did you know how many I took away?

 How many do I have left?

 How did you know how many I had left?

Name: _____

How Many Are Left?

	Show	Take Away	Left
1.	6	4	
2.	8	1	
3.	4	4	
4.	9	5	
5.	10	0	
6.	7	2	

How Many Are Left?

Teacher Directions

Distribute the BLM *How Many Are Left?*, and allow students to use counters to find the answers.

Answer Key

1. 2
2. 7
3. 0
4. 4
5. 10
6. 5