

Finding the difference between numbers

Warm up

- Use a ball or beanbag and throw onto different number cards (e.g. throw to 11!)
- Play the interactive number bonds game https://www.mathplayground.com/number_bonds_10.html



Activities

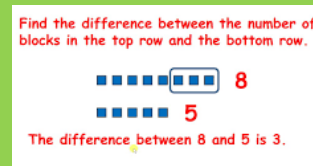
Watch the Numberblocks video - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0bn57fv/numberblocks-series-3-whats-the-difference>



Explain that today we are going to find the difference between numbers!

It is important that children learn that when we say: 'What is the difference between 1 and 6?' we mean: 'How many numbers do you count up from 1 to get to 6?' or 'What is 6 subtract 1?'

Find a selection of items, line them up in 2 rows as shown here...



Ask your child to identify what the difference is between the 2 rows, model showing them where the extra items are in the row, that's the difference. Practise this with different quantities of items. Swap roles and ask them to create 2 rows for you to work out the difference. If your child can find the difference between 2 single digit numbers introduce some 2 digit numbers.

Next count out 6 items and ask "how many more do we need to make 10?" Make a row of 10 items above the 6 items, what is the difference? The difference between 10 and 6 is 4. So, 10 take away 4 is 6 ($10-4=6$). Now try with different amounts of objects. Encourage them to think about the number bonds we learnt at the start of the week. Show your child how to record their answers using a subtraction sum.