

Two Ways to Subtract

Name: _____

Date: _____

Numbers to 20 - solve each problem both ways.

Solve each one twice. Both ways are good ones - which felt faster for you?

1) $12 - 6 =$ _____

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$6 + 4 =$ _____

add the last ones

_____ + 2 = _____

add up your jumps

$4 + 2 =$ _____

Way B
Think Addition

6 plus what makes 10?

$6 +$ _____ $= 10$

10 plus what makes 12?

$10 +$ _____ $= 12$

add up your jumps

$4 + 2 =$ _____

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

2) $16 - 8 =$ _____

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$8 + 2 =$ _____

add the last ones

_____ + 6 = _____

add up your jumps

$2 + 6 =$ _____

Way B
Think Addition

8 plus what makes 10?

$8 +$ _____ $= 10$

10 plus what makes 16?

$10 +$ _____ $= 16$

add up your jumps

$2 + 6 =$ _____

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

3) $15 - 7 =$ _____

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$15 - 5 =$ _____

take away what is left

_____ - 2 = _____

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$15 - 5 =$ _____

then take away the other 2

_____ - 2 = _____

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

4) $13 - 6 =$ _____

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$13 - 3 =$ _____

take away what is left

_____ - 3 = _____

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$13 - 5 =$ _____

then take away the other 1

_____ - 1 = _____

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B



Answer Key

Two Ways to Subtract - Numbers to 20

Every step is filled in. Check your work.

Solve each one twice. Both ways are good ones - which felt faster for you?

1) $12 - 6 = \underline{6}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$6 + 4 = \underline{10}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{10} + 2 = \underline{12}$$

add up your jumps

$$4 + 2 = \underline{6}$$

Way B
Think Addition

6 plus what makes 10?

$$6 + \underline{4} = 10$$

10 plus what makes 12?

$$10 + \underline{2} = 12$$

add up your jumps

$$4 + 2 = \underline{6}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

2) $16 - 8 = \underline{8}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$8 + 2 = \underline{10}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{10} + 6 = \underline{16}$$

add up your jumps

$$2 + 6 = \underline{8}$$

Way B
Think Addition

8 plus what makes 10?

$$8 + \underline{2} = 10$$

10 plus what makes 16?

$$10 + \underline{6} = 16$$

add up your jumps

$$2 + 6 = \underline{8}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

3) $15 - 7 = \underline{8}$

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$15 - 5 = \underline{10}$$

take away what is left

$$\underline{10} - 2 = \underline{8}$$

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$15 - 5 = \underline{10}$$

then take away the other 2

$$\underline{10} - 2 = \underline{8}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

4) $13 - 6 = \underline{7}$

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$13 - 3 = \underline{10}$$

take away what is left

$$\underline{10} - 3 = \underline{7}$$

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$13 - 5 = \underline{8}$$

then take away the other 1

$$\underline{8} - 1 = \underline{7}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

