

Which Way Should I Take Away?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Numbers to 20 - look at the numbers, pick a way, show your steps, then name the way you used.

Ways to choose from: Take Away Too Much, Give Back • Stop at the Hundred • Count Up to Subtract • Think Addition • Keep the Difference the Same • Take Away to Ten First • Take Away Five First • Split to Subtract

1) $17 - 8 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

2) $14 - 8 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 3

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

3) $18 - 15 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

4) $5 - 4 =$ _____

Which way? _____

Does this one even need steps?

5) $20 - 9 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

6) $19 - 7 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

7) $14 - 6 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

8) $20 - 17 =$ _____

Which way? _____

step 1

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

step 2

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$



Answer Key

Which Way Should I Take Away? - Numbers to 20

The best way for each problem is named, with its steps.

Ways to choose from: Take Away Too Much, Give Back • Stop at the Hundred • Count Up to Subtract • Think Addition • Keep the Difference the Same • Take Away to Ten First • Take Away Five First • Split to Subtract

1) $17 - 8 = \underline{9}$

Which way? Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$17 - 5 = \underline{12}$$

then take away the other 3

$$\underline{12} - 3 = \underline{9}$$

2) $14 - 8 = \underline{6}$

Which way? Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

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

add the last ones

$$\underline{10} + 4 = \underline{14}$$

add up your jumps

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

also works: Think Addition, Take Away to Ten First

3) $18 - 15 = \underline{3}$

Which way? Split to Subtract

take away the tens

$$18 - 10 = \underline{8}$$

take away the ones

$$\underline{8} - 5 = \underline{3}$$

4) $5 - 4 = \underline{1}$

Which way? Neighbours - just count back to it

No steps needed - this one is just a rule.

5) $20 - 9 = \underline{11}$

Which way? Take Away Too Much, Give Back

take away 10 instead

$$20 - 10 = \underline{10}$$

give back the extra 1

$$\underline{10} + 1 = \underline{11}$$

6) $19 - 7 = \underline{12}$

Which way? Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$19 - 5 = \underline{14}$$

then take away the other 2

$$\underline{14} - 2 = \underline{12}$$

7) $14 - 6 = \underline{8}$

Which way? Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$14 - 4 = \underline{10}$$

take away what is left

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

also works: Take Away Five First

8) $20 - 17 = \underline{3}$

Which way? Split to Subtract

take away the tens

$$20 - 10 = \underline{10}$$

take away the ones

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

