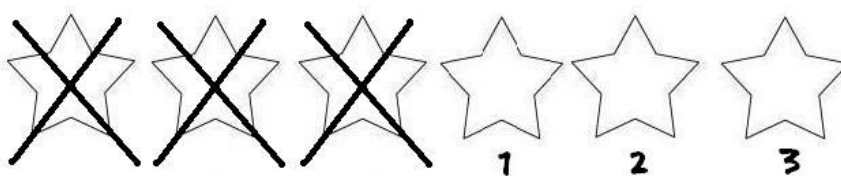# FIRST GRADE MATH STRATEGIES: SUBTRACTION

DEFINITIONS:
- minuend– the number from which another number is being subtracted (the bigger number)
- subtrahend– the number that is being subtracted from another number (the smaller number)
- difference– the resulting answer when one number is subtracted from another
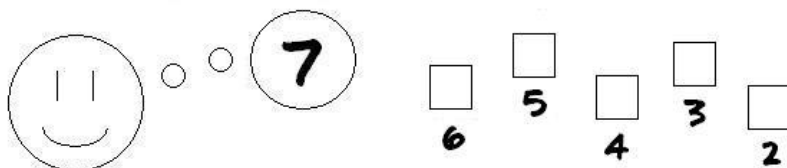
PICTURES or SYMBOLS:
- Draw an equivalent number of pictures or symbols to represent the minuend.
- Cross off an equivalent number of pictures or symbols to represent the subtrahend.
- Count and label all of the remaining pictures or symbols to determine the difference of the numbers.
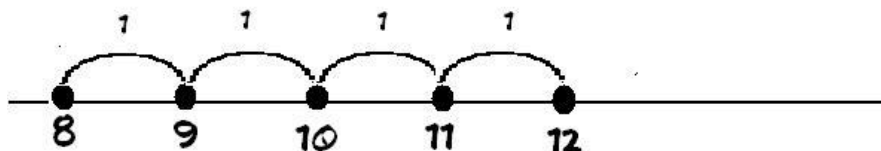
$$6 - 3 = 3$$

COUNTING BACK
- Start with the minuend. Count down by ones, the number of times as the subtrahend.
- The number you end with, is the difference of the numbers.

$$7 - 5 = 2$$

OPEN NUMBER LINE
- Start with the minuend. Hop backwards by ones, the number of times as the subtrahend.
- The number you land on, is the difference of the numbers.

$$12 - 4 = 8$$