

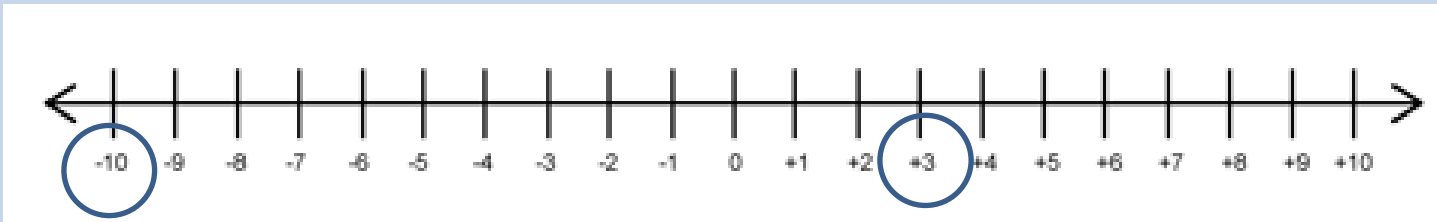
# Finding the difference: negative numbers

We will look at a pair of negative numbers and find the difference between them e.g. -5 and -4

We will look at a negative and positive number and find the difference between them e.g. -2 and 6

# Which is the greater number?

- 10 or 3

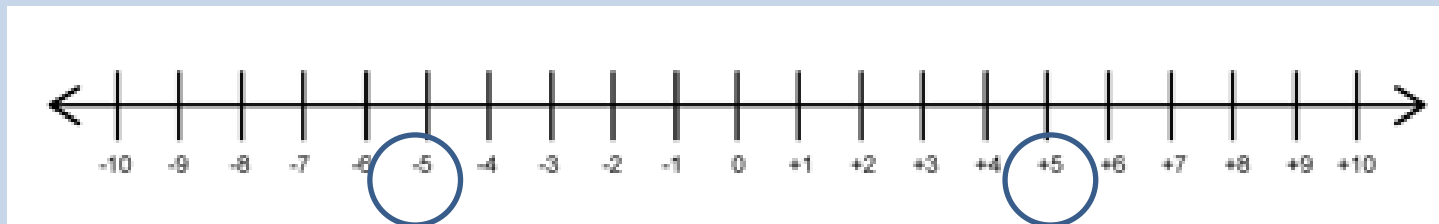


ANSWER

3

Which is the greater  
number?

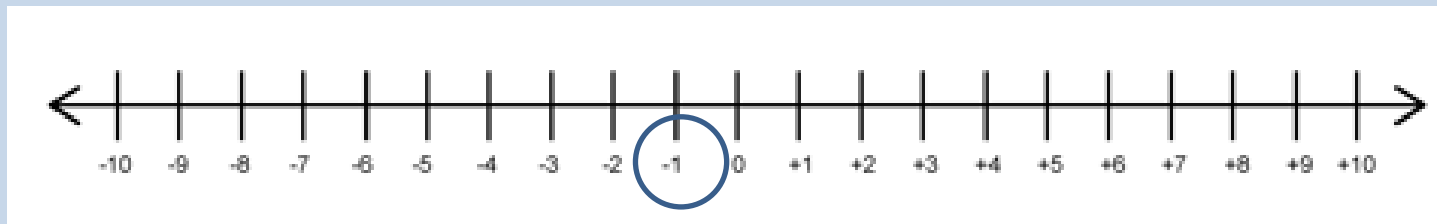
5 or -5



Answer

5

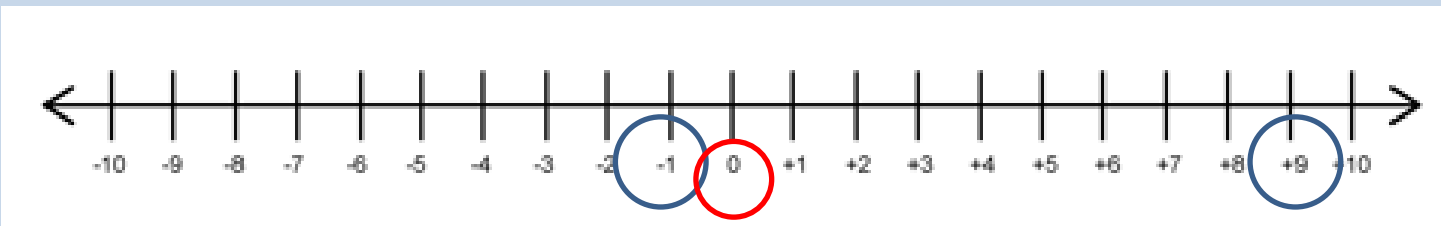
Start on -1 and count on 10.  
Where do you land?



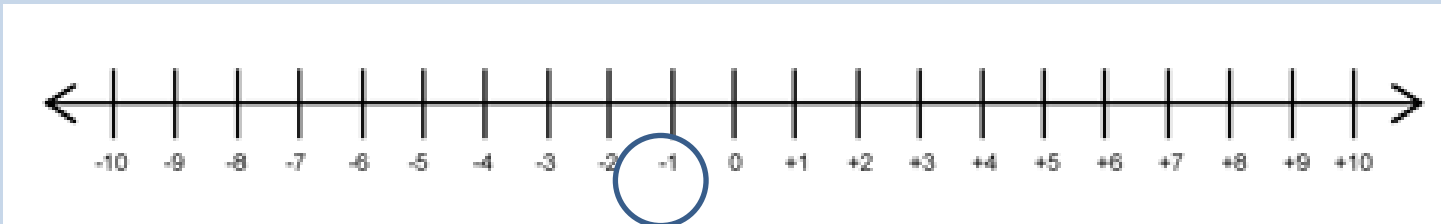
# ANSWER

9

The trick is to count up to zero first (1 jump) and then count what's left (9 more jumps)



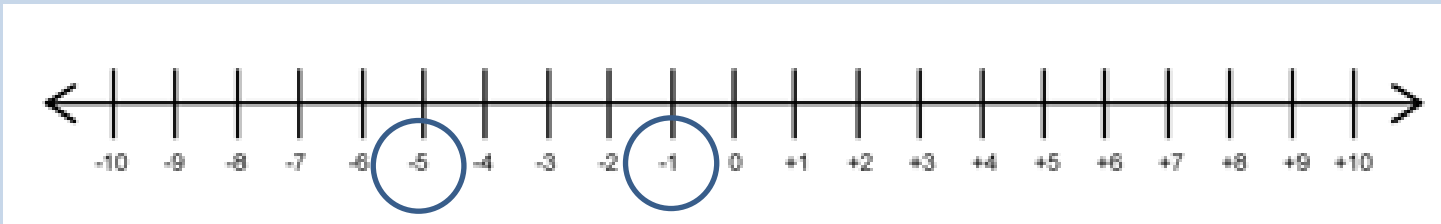
Start on -1 and count back 4.  
Where do you land?



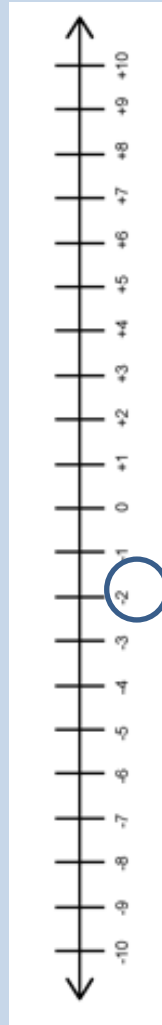


# Answer

# -5



If the temperature was  $-2$  degrees and then the temperature rose by 4 degrees, what is the new temperature?



This is slightly different because we now need to think the number line vertically. But the idea of finding the difference is the same.

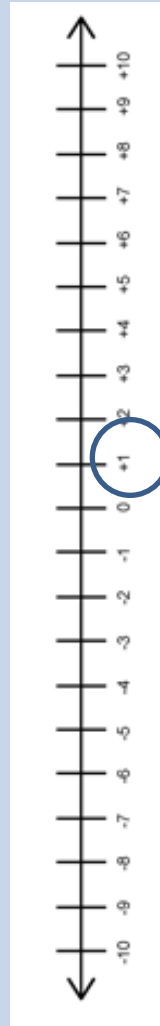
Again, count up to the zero first and then the rest.

Answer

2 degrees

Split the 4 into 2 and 2. Count 2 up to zero and then the last 2 up to positive 2.

If the temperature was 1 degree and the temperature dropped by 3 degrees, what is the new temperature?



Answer

-2 degrees

Again count to the zero first and then  
the rest.

In your home-learning book, draw out your own number line and add in the numbers from -20 to 20. Don't forget the zero!

Now use this to find the difference between the numbers on the next slide. With practice, you can start to visualise the number line in your head!

Find the difference between...

a) -2 and -5

b) -10 and -7

c) -1 and -12

d) -20 and -13

e) -4 and -14

# Answers

a)  $-2$  and  $-5 = 3$

b)  $-10$  and  $-7 = 3$

c)  $-1$  and  $-12 = 11$

d)  $-20$  and  $-13 = 7$

e)  $-4$  and  $-14 = 10$



Find the difference between...

a) -2 and 4

b) -1 and 9

c) 3 and -4

d) 10 and -5

e) 5 and -5

# Answers

a)  $-2$  and  $4 = 6$

b)  $-1$  and  $9 = 10$

c)  $3$  and  $-4 = 7$

d)  $10$  and  $-5 = 15$

e)  $5$  and  $-5 = 10$

Now try some practice questions by yourself. Good luck and remember to check your answers for accuracy!