Sample Activity

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The Commitment

We provide classroom-tested, step-by-step lessons that are clear, easy to follow and are based on years of teaching experience. Leaps and Bounds Educational Consultants are committed to delivering quality education into the hands of parents, teachers and students alike.
There is an important concept that you must understand now.

After you have drawn your picture, do you have more or less than when you started? Will you have a smaller number of objects or a greater number of objects?

Section A

Let's try some more pictures so that you can be sure you understand.

Draw the pictures that you see in your mind when you hear or read the following sentences. If you have more objects, draw them in separate groups. If you have less, circle (or somehow otherwise mark) the ones you take away. Beside the picture you have drawn in each sentence, write the word more if you have more than when you started or write the word less if you have circled ones that have been taken away.

1. Seven lightbulbs were in our closet. Then we found four in the cupboard.

More

2. My friend and I have started saving our pennies. I have ten in my pocket to start our collection and my friend has eight.

3. There were eleven cats sitting on our fence last night. Three ran away.

4. I have thirteen hockey cards in my bag. I gave away five cards.

5. My mother made fifteen cookies. I ate four of them.
Step 3: More or Less

Section B

Now let's try the same thing with mathematical problems. Don't forget to draw the pictures and write more or less beside your pictures.

1. There are fourteen plates on my kitchen table. I took five off the table and put them away in the cupboard. How many plates are there left on the kitchen table?

2. In our cupboard I counted sixteen cans of soup. Seven of the cans were used for a luncheon party for my friends. How many cans of soup are left in our cupboard?

3. Eight dogs in my neighbourhood were barking last night. Three other dogs came and joined them. How many dogs were barking last night?

4. I have seventeen CDs in my room. I loaned eight of them to my friends. How many CDs do I now have left in my room?

5. All of my friends came to my birthday party. I invited twelve people and three more came when my mother phoned to invite them. How many people were at my birthday party?

6. There are eighteen houses on my street. Last week, the construction company started to build three more. How many houses will there be on my street when they are finished?

7. I counted fifty-two tiles on my dining room floor and thirty-seven tiles on my kitchen floor. How many tiles are there in my house?

8. If you have forty-seven cents in your pocket and you spend twenty-two cents on some bubble gum, how much money do you have left?

9. When I cleaned up my room, I found thirty-three socks under my bed. I found another twelve socks in my closet. How many socks did I find altogether?

10. While we were on vacation, I bought fifty-seven postcards. I sent thirty-nine of them to my family and friends. How many postcards do I have left?

Section C

Go back to some of the math problems in Step 1: Diagrams for which you have drawn pictures and write more or less after the pictures you have drawn.
Try These

Represent the objects in the problems with an easy symbol. Beside each write the word more if you have a greater number than when you started. Write the word less if you have circled the ones that have been taken away.

1. On Hallowe'en night Jesse got ten candy bars and ten suckers. How many candies did he get?

2. The autumn leaves were dropping into the pool. At first Lonny saw eighteen leaves. The next time he looked there were twenty more leaves. How many leaves have dropped into the pool?

3. Mother bought a jar that had twenty cherries in it. For their dessert she used eight cherries. How many were left in the bottle?

4. Nick took a bog of Hallowe'en candy to school. The bag had thirty-six suckers in it. He gave one to each of his twenty-one classmates. How many does he have left?

5. Eleven fat frogs were sunning themselves at the side of the pond. They heard a noise and eight jumped into the water. How many fat frogs were left at the side of the pond?

6. Beth has a beautiful butterfly bush. One sunny day in September she saw six butterflies on the bush. Then she saw three hummingbirds land on it. How many visitors were at her pretty bush?

7. We saw a family of four loons swimming on the lake. Further away we saw another family of three loons. How many loons did we see altogether?

8. At the birthday party seven people requested hot dogs and the other people asked for pizza. How many children were eating at the party?

9. On Jane's street there are twenty-four houses. Only seven of the houses have shutters. How many houses do not have shutters?
Try these on your own before moving on.

1. Mr. Blue greased 9 cars before lunch and 8 cars after lunch. How many cars did he grease?

2. A gas tank on a sports car holds 47 litres when full. After a trip, there were 18 litres left in the tank. How many litres did they use?

3. The gas tank on the boat holds 54 litres of gas. 16 litres were used in one day. How many litres are left in the tank?

4. Mr. Blue had a set of 7 wrenches. He bought a new set of 16 wrenches. How many wrenches does he have now?

5. On Friday, three tires were sold and on Saturday, 9 tires were sold. How many tires were sold altogether?

6. There are 12 cans of oil in a box. Seven cans were sold. How many cans are left in the box?

7. There are 16 cans of auto polish in a box. After the sale, there are 9 cans left. How many were sold?

8. Carol bought a camp book for seven dollars and a flashlight for ten dollars. How much did she spend?

9. There are twenty-seven guppies in a fish tank. Thirteen were sold in one hour. How many guppies are left in the fish tank?

10. A swordfish ate thirty-two guppies. There are now eighteen guppies left. How many guppies were there in the fish tank altogether?
Step 3: More or Less

Instructions: Place an envelope on the bottom of the bulletin board and in the envelope place several large plus and minus signs. Students will use these signs to place them in the correct box on the bulletin board as they answer the questions.

What is the combined number of objects?

How many more hearts than stars are there?

How many more big hearts than little hearts are there?

What is the total number of big stars and little stars?
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Published in Canada by Switchclick Corporation
110 Railway Street, Kingston, ON, K7K 2L9, Canada
Email: info@switchclick.ca
Website: www.switchclick.ca

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