

Sheet 14: Negative Numbers

Worked example:

Max the monkey is looking at a thermometer. If the temperature is 3°C and drops to -2°C , what is the difference? Count the jumps on the number line: -2 to -1 (1), -1 to 0 (2), 0 to 1 (3), 1 to 2 (4), 2 to 3 (5).

Answer: The difference is 5 degrees.

- Write these temperatures in order, starting with the coldest: 2°C , -4°C , 0°C , -1°C , 5°C .

Coldest: :Warmest

- Calculate the difference between these temperatures: 4°C and -3°C .

Difference:

- Calculate the difference between these temperatures: 2°C and -5°C .

Difference:

- Fill in the missing numbers on this number line: -5, -4, ____, -2, -1, 0, 1, ____.

Missing numbers:

- Max has £3 in his pocket but owes his friend £2. If we think of owing money as a negative number ($-\text{£}2$), what is the difference between his money and his debt?

Difference:

Self-check: Check your answers by counting the jumps on a number line to ensure the distance between the two numbers is correct.

Ready for next: Once you can confidently find the difference between positive and negative numbers, you are ready to plot these values on a line graph.