


10–15 min **Interactive Learning**

Overview In this activity, children will use counters to model and solve subtraction story problems.

Essential Question  How can you use objects to help you solve problems?

Materials Counters (or Teaching Tool 37) (9 per pair)

Engage

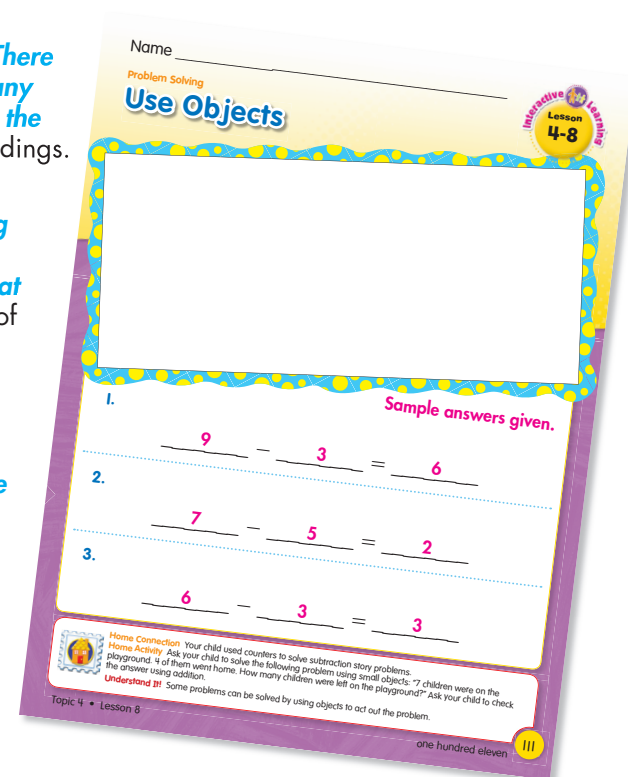
Set the Purpose *You have learned how to use counters to show a number. Today you will use counters to help you solve subtraction story problems.*

Connect *How do you know when to subtract?* [You subtract when you know the whole and want to find a part or when you compare two groups.]
Give an example of a subtraction sentence. [Answers will vary.]

Pose the Problem Write the following story on the board. Read the problem aloud. *There are nine children playing inside. Three of them go outside. How many children are left inside? Use counters to show what is happening in the story.* Observe children as they work. Invite them to share their findings.

Model/Demonstrate Guide children through the activity. *There are nine children playing inside. How can you show that with counters?* Have them put 9 counters in the space on page 111. *Three children go outside. What should you do now?* Guide children to move 3 of the counters off of the space. *What number sentence matches the story?* [$9 - 3 = 6$] Have children write the number sentence in Item 1 of page 111. *How many children are left inside?* [6]

Small-Group Interaction Have children work in pairs. *Work with your partner to show more subtraction sentences.* Have one partner pick a number from 5 to 9 and place that many counters in the space on the page. Have the other partner move some of the counters off the space. *Write a number sentence in Item 2 to show your actions.* Have children change roles and repeat the activity to complete Item 3. Once all children have completed the items, have a volunteer from each pair write one of their sentences on the board. As a class, make up different subtraction stories for each number sentence.



Extend

Bill has 6 fish and Lia has 4 fish. How many more fish does Bill have? Is this a subtraction story? [Bill has 2 more fish than Lia; yes, it is a subtraction story.]

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Link to Investigations, Second Edition

Joint-Usage Master Plan
Blended Instruction (Plan 1):
Topic 4 and Units 1, 3, 5, and 6