Counting Forwards and Backwards

- Count forwards and backwards
- Use number patterns

Counting Forwards

When you count **forwards**, you start with a number of lower value and move on to numbers with a higher value.

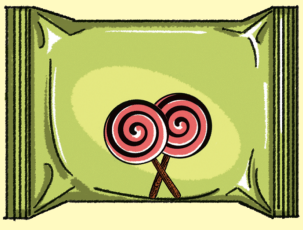
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ← This is counting forwards using single-digit numbers.

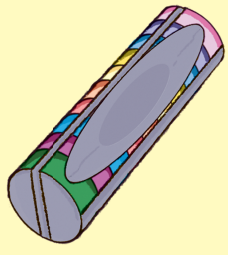
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 ← This is counting forwards using two-digit numbers from 10 to 20.

Example

Sarah had 25 sweets in her bag. She added five more. How many sweets did Sarah then have?

Start at 25. Count on 5 = 30 sweets.





Key Point

Numbers are ordered according to their value.

Counting Backwards

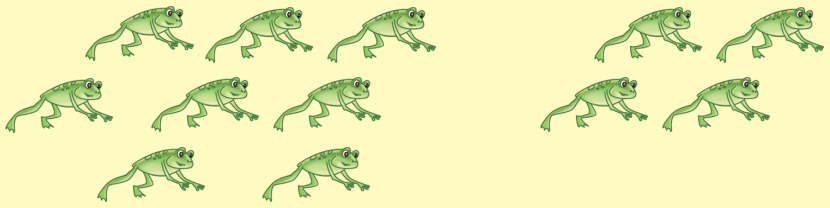
When you count **backwards**, you start with a number of higher value and move back to numbers with a lower value.

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 ← This is counting backwards using single-digit numbers.

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 ← This is counting to a lower value using two-digit numbers between 10 and 20.

Example

Here are eight small frogs. If four of them jump away, how many frogs are left?



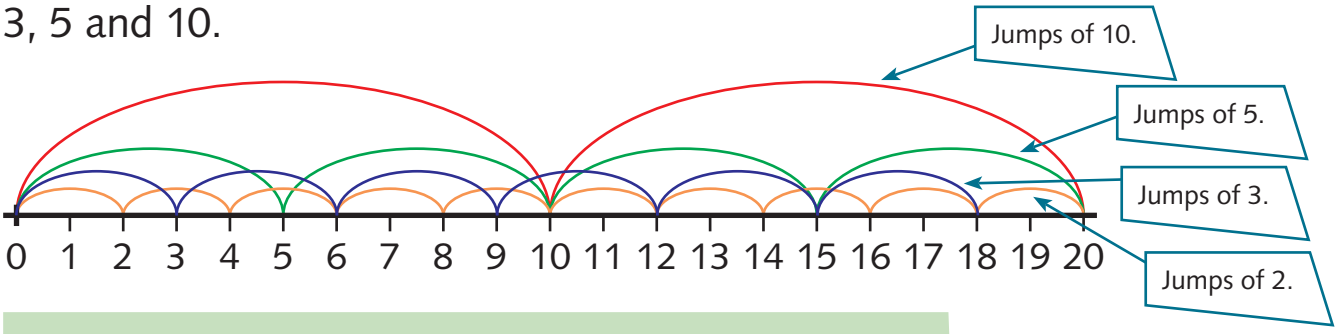
Start at 8. Count back 4 = 4 frogs.

Key Point

Numbers always stay in the same order but can be counted backwards or forwards.

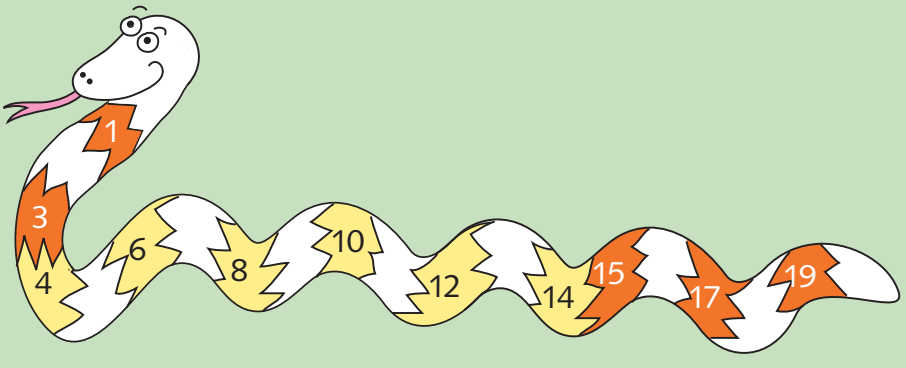
Number Patterns

You can count forwards and backwards in steps of 2, 3, 5 and 10.



Quick Test

1. Write the missing numbers on the snake.



2. Start at 19 and count back the given amounts.

a) Count back 5 = ☐

b) Count back 11 = ☐

3. There are five kittens asleep in a basket. If four of them wake up and go outside to play, how many kittens are still asleep in the basket?

Key Words

- Forwards
- Backwards