Master Negative Numbers (-20 to 20)

Rationale

In this step, pupils build on their understanding of negative numbers in Year 5 to find the difference between a positive and negative number.

They will develop their understanding of negative numbers in context, including temperatures, and deepen their understanding by estimating the position of negative numbers on blank number lines. Pupils will also compare two negative numbers by identifying the difference.

Pupils will draw their own number lines marked with different intervals through zero to support their understanding of negative numbers.

Key Stem Sentences

- The difference between ___ and ___ is ___
- The warmest / coldest temperature is ___

Key Vocabulary

- positive / negative / zero
- interval
- multiple
- difference

Key Representations

Number Lines

-20   -10   0   10   20
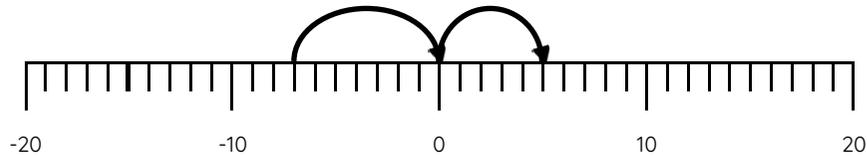
The difference between -7 and 5 is 12

-10   0   10
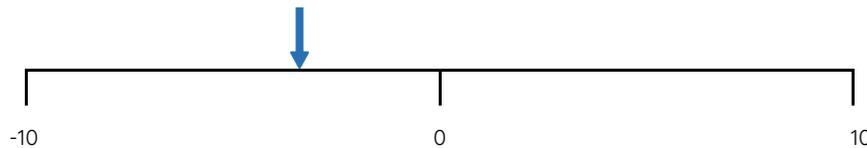
-4 is approximately here on the number line

Common Errors or Misconceptions

- Pupils may link finding the difference between a positive and negative number to subtraction. For example, the difference between - 4 and 6 is 2 (6 –4 = 2) not 10

Pupils will FLOURISH if they can...

- count forwards and backwards through zero to label numbers on a number track.
- label numbers and estimate the position of negative numbers on number lines.
- accurately find the difference between a positive and negative number, including temperatures and answer questions correctly, using negative numbers in context.
- explain their understanding in multiple ways using their own words and representations.