

Knowledge Organiser





Year 4

Addition and Subtraction

In Year 4, we move on to adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers. As the numbers get larger, we must make sure we are using suitable strategies to check our answers. We can then apply these methods to solve 2-step problems (problems where we need to do two calculations).

Builds from Year 3:

Column addition and subtraction. Use the inverse operation.

This year:

Add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits.

Estimate and use the inverse to check. Two-step problems involving addition and subtraction.

Leads to Year 5:

Develop mental addition and subtraction strategies.

Use column addition and subtraction with decimals

Multi-step problems involving addition and subtraction.

Addition and Subtraction Methods

Add 4-digit numbers

No exchange

5162 +3427 8589 Starting with the ones, add each column in turn.

One exchange

Starting with the ones, add each

5162 column in turn. When adding

+3497 6 tens + 9 tens = 15 tens

8659 = 1 hundred + 5 tens

Place 1 hundred under the hundreds

answer and 5 tens in the answer.

Multiple exchanges

5864 Starting with the ones, add each column in turn. Exchange tens, hundreds and/ or thousands as required.

Subtract 4-digit numbers

No exchange

5789
- 3421
2368

Starting with the ones, subtract each column in turn.

One exchange

Starting with the ones, subtract each column in turn. When subtracting 4 tens -7 tens, exchange 1 hundred to make:

14 tens - 7 tens = 7 tens

Multiple exchanges

5742 Starting with the ones, subtract each column in turn. Exchange tens, hundreds and/ or thousands as required.

Estimate Answers

9362 - 5729 = 3622

Round to the nearest hundred

9400 - 5700 = 3700

Round to the nearest thousand

9000 - 6000 = 3000

Rounding to the nearest hundred is much more accurate in this case.

Checking Strategies

Using Inverse

3476 2732 **744**

3476 – 744 = 2732 can be checked using 2732 + 744 = 3476

Adding in a different order

420 + 372 + 280 =

Change to

420 + 280 + 372 =

As 420 + 280 = 700

(because 42 + 28 = 70)

420 + 280 + 372 = 700 + 372 = 1072

Key Vocabulary

column addition column subtraction add total make plus sum more altogether subtract less minus difference take away inverse operation exchange place value estimate two-step problems