

Subtraction Draw

Object of the Game

Players create two 3-digit numbers and subtract the numbers to find the difference. The player with the greater difference earns 1 point. After 4 rounds, the player with more points wins!

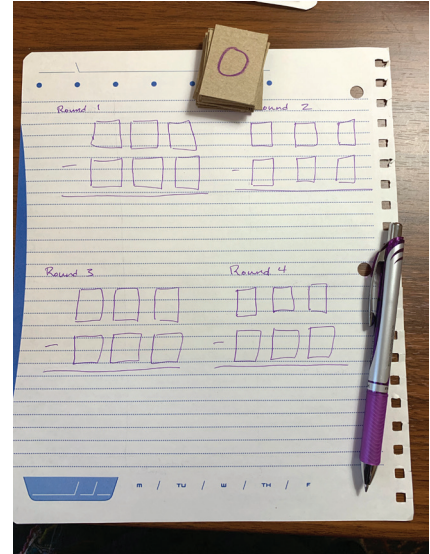
Materials

- 1 set of Number Cards (3 each of the numbers 0–9)
Print the cards, use cards 2–9 plus aces for 1s and kings for 0s from a deck of standard playing cards, or make your own cards.
- 2 Subtraction Draw Record Sheets
Print the record sheets or make your own.
- Pencils or pens

Skills

This game helps us practice:

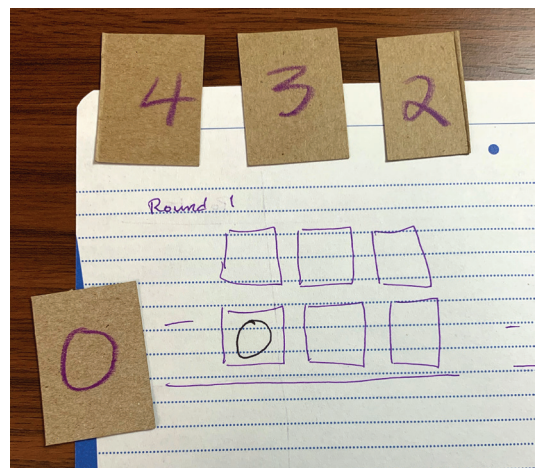
- Subtracting 3-digit numbers
- Understanding place value
- Using estimation



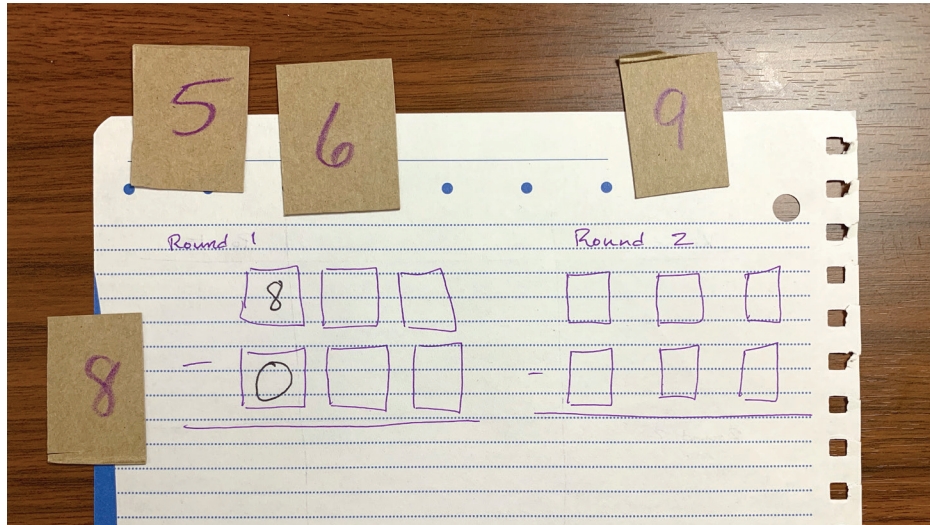
How to Play

1. Mix up the number cards and place them face-down in a stack.
2. Each player draws a card. The player with the greater number goes first.
3. Player 1 draws four cards and places them face-up in a line.
4. Player 1 chooses one of the four cards and records the number in one of the Round 1 boxes on their Subtraction Draw Record Sheet. Player 2 chooses one of the remaining three cards and records the number in one of the Round 1 boxes on their own record sheet.

Sierra is Player 1. She chose 0 as her first number. She put it in the second set of three boxes so that she'll subtract a 2-digit number from a 3-digit number.



- Player 2 takes all four cards (the two chosen and the two not chosen) and places them in a discard pile.
- Then Player 2 draws four new cards and lays them face-up. They choose a card and record the number in one of their remaining Round 1 boxes. Player 1 chooses one of the remaining three cards and records the number in one of their Round 1 boxes.



*Sierra's mom chose 9 from the next set of 4 cards, so Sierra chose 8.
She knows her difference will be close to 800.*

- Players continue alternating who chooses the first number until all six Round 1 boxes are filled in.
- Players subtract the numbers they created. The player with the greater difference earns 1 point and circles their difference to show they won that round.
- Players repeat steps 3–8 for 3 more rounds, reshuffling the cards between rounds. The player with more points after Round 4 is the winner. If there is a tie, the player who had the greatest difference in any of the 4 rounds is the winner.

Tips for Families

Before you play:

- Talk about what makes the difference between two numbers to be a greater number. Choose two numbers that are close together and find their difference. Choose two numbers that are farther apart and find their difference. What do you notice?
- Students may have subtraction strategies not familiar to you, like making jumps on a number line, or breaking apart numbers by place value. Ask questions if you don't understand a strategy. It's always interesting to learn something new

During the game:

- Estimate your difference and your opponent's difference with the numbers that are in place. Think about ways to make your difference greater.
- Think about strategy. When you get to choose first, what is the best number to choose? Why?
- Think about different ways you can subtract. Depending on the numbers, the most efficient way may be to add up. Sometimes you may want to use a number line to help you see the difference.

Change It Up

Making even small changes to a game can invite new ways of thinking about the math. Try making one of the changes below. How did it change your strategy for winning the game?

- Earn a point when you create the lesser difference instead of the greater difference.
- Add two wild cards to your deck. If using a deck of cards, use two jokers or jacks as wild cards. The player who draws the wild card can choose to record any number in an open space on their record sheet for that round.
- Create sums instead of differences. Play to make the greater or lesser sum.



0

0

0

1

1

1

2

2

2



3

3

3

4

4

4

5

5

5



6

6

6

7

7

7

8

8

8



9
—

9
—

9
—

**Wild
Card**

**Wild
Card**

Subtraction Draw Record Sheet

Record and solve your subtraction problem for each round. Circle your difference if you win the point for the round.

Round 1

—

Round 2

—

Round 3

—

Round 4

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