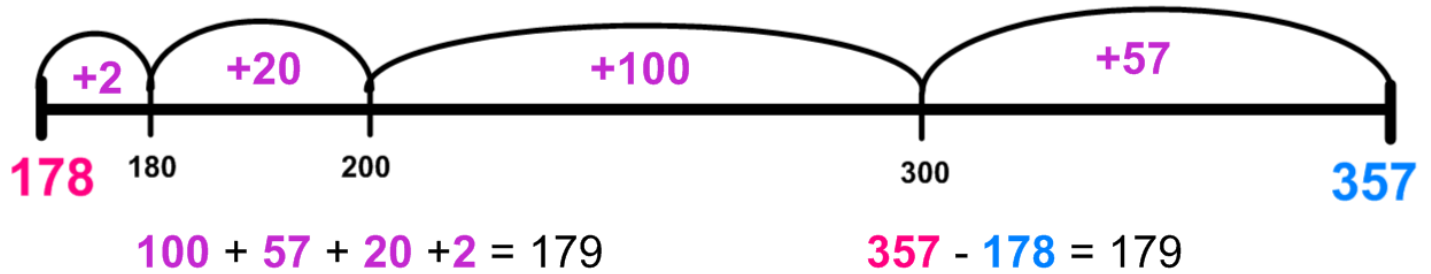


Strategies for subtraction

In our math groups, we encourage students to learn and try different strategies for subtraction. It is important they recognize and choose the strategy that works best for them. Here are 4 different examples of how students can find the answer to $357 - 178$

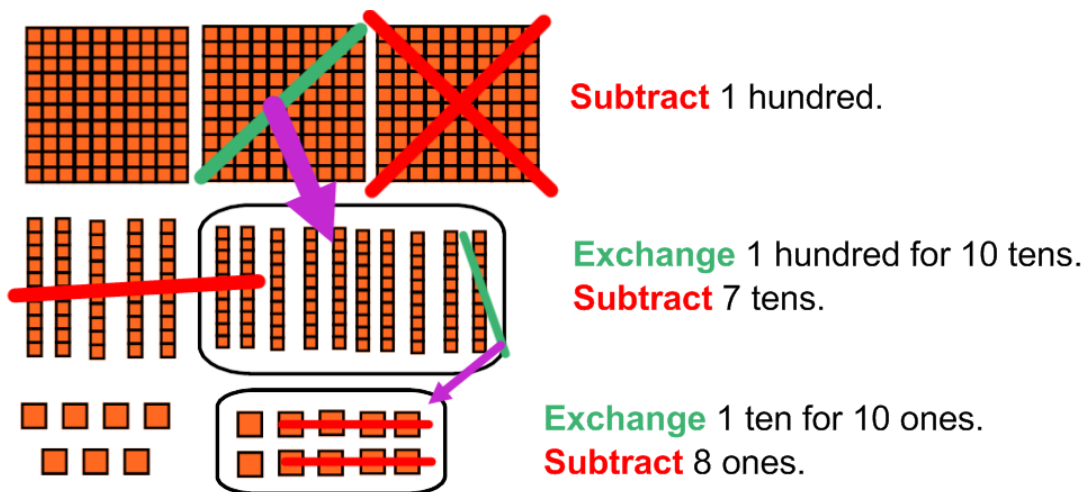
Subtraction as addition using a number line: A good strategy to show the relationship between addition and subtraction

1. Place the smaller number at the beginning of the number line, and the larger at the end.
2. Find 'friendly numbers' to count by hops to find the difference between the numbers.
3. Add the 'hops' to find the total difference.



Subtracting with base ten material: A great strategy for students who need a visual.

1. Draw the base ten material to represent the larger number.
2. Begin by removing the thousands (if applicable), hundreds, tens and then thousands.
3. When necessary, regroup by exchanging base ten material.
4. Count the remaining base ten to find the difference.



Count the remaining base ten to find the difference.

$$357 - 178 = 179$$

Decomposition: Similar to using the base ten strategy, but without the visual.

1. Subtract the thousands (if applicable), the hundreds, the tens, then the ones.
2. When necessary, regroup.
3. Add the differences to find the total difference.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 300 - 100 = 200 \quad 100 \\
 150 - 70 = 80 \quad 70 \\
 17 - 8 = 9 \\
 \hline
 100 + 70 + 9 = 179
 \end{array}$$