Name: ..... Class: .....

Subtract integers using counters

1. Use counters to subtract (-10) - (+7) =

2. Use counters to subtract (+7) - (+2) =

Solution

Name: ..... Class: .....

Subtract integers using counters

1. Use counters to subtract (-10) - (+7) =

-10 = - - - - - - - - - -

+ 7 = + + + + + + +

❶ Begin with 10 negative counters which equals **-10**.

- - - - - - - - - -

❷ We can also represent **-10** with more **7** negative counters and **7** positive counters as shown below.

- - - - - - - - - -

- - - - - - -
+ + + + + + +

→ This part can be cancelled together, means that it is equal to 0.

❸ From this new representation of **-10**, let's remove **7** positive counters.

- - - - - - - - - -

- - - - - - -

~~+ + + + + + +~~

❹ Therefore, 17 negative counters are left.
So, (-10) - (+7) = -17

2. Use counters to subtract (+7) - (+2) =

+ 7 = + + + + + + +

Begin with 7 positive counters.
Take away two positive counters from 7 positive counters.

+ + + + + ~~+~~ ~~+~~

5 positive counters are left.

Therefore, (+7) - (+2) = + 5