

Mental subtraction strategies – count-back and count-up to find the difference

MODULE 2 · THE FOUR OPERATIONS – MENTAL AND WRITTEN NUMBER

STRETCH PROBLEMS

- 1 The school printer starts the term with **6176** sheets of paper. By Halloween the teachers have used **4485** sheets on worksheets. How many sheets are left?
- 2 The school library has **3138** books on its shelves. By the end of the term, **2391** of them have been borrowed at least once. How many books have not been borrowed yet?
- 3 The Cliffs of Moher had **8528** visitors on Saturday and **3386** visitors on Sunday. How many more people visited on Saturday than on Sunday?
- 4 A big soccer match in Dublin had **5580** seats available. On the day, **4752** seats were filled by supporters. How many seats were still empty?
- 5 The pupils set a target of **8851 km** for their sponsored cycle this year. By the summer holidays they have logged **1274 km** of that target. How many kilometres are left to cycle?

INVESTIGATE

Count back or count up?

Write eight subtraction sums — some with numbers close together (like $83 - 78$) and some far apart (like $83 - 7$). Decide for each whether **count-back** or **count-up** is quicker. What pattern do you notice about the gap?
