

Negative numbers – first encounter

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Numbers less than zero are called **negative numbers**. They sit to the left of zero on the number line. Numbers greater than zero are **positive numbers**.

→ On a thermometer, -5°C is colder than 0°C .

→ On a number line: ...-3, -2, -1, **0**, 1, 2, 3...

ANSWER KEY

a) D on tick at -5; E on tick at +8.

b) 11 steps (from -7 to 4).

c) A — at -7, the most negative.

d) +3 ($-3 + 6 = 3$).

Q1: $-9 < 12 < 14 < 15$

Q2: $-1 < 7 < 8 < 14$

a) Always — On the number line every positive sits to the right of every negative — even +0.1 beats -1,000.

b) Never — Further left on the number line is smaller. -7 is colder than -3.

c) Sometimes — True for positives ($8 > 3$) but false with negatives ($-8 < -3$).

d) Always — Zero sits to the right of every negative on the number line.

e) Always — Counting up the number line: $-2 \rightarrow -1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$ is 5 jumps.

f) Never — -10 is the colder one (further below zero); -5 is warmer.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: $-4.1 < 0.1 < 2.9 < 4.8$

S2: $-10 < -1 < 9 < 15$

S3: $-10 < -4 < 4 < 6$