

## Activity:

This activity has been adapted from a Year 4 resource to make it suitable for Year 3. The aim of this activity is for children to practise calculating answers using different methods so they can see which is more efficient. There are three questions to complete. The first two questions allow children to practise the skill, while the third question extends them as they have to problem solve and explain their answer.

## Vocabulary:

When subtracting with large numbers, there is a **formal written method** (also known as column method). The number to be subtracted is written directly under the first number so that the digits line up in columns.

A **calculation** is a way to determine an amount. It may involve addition, subtraction, multiplication or division.

**Count on** is a subtraction strategy using a number line to count from the smallest number to the largest number.

A **number line** is a horizontal, straight line which has numbers placed at equal points. Number lines can be used to show either positive or negative numbers. Most number lines begin at 0, however this is not always the case.

## Supporting resources:

You can watch a video tutorial about efficient subtraction on [kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk](https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk) >> **Year 3 >> Maths >> Addition and Subtraction >> Video Tutorials.**

You can watch the answer explanation video which takes children through this activity and ways to answer it on <https://www.youtube.com/user/ClassroomSecretsLtd/> **playlists >> Year 3 Playlist >> Efficient Subtraction Answer Explanation.**

## Other resources:

If your child enjoyed this activity and wants to try more activities linked to this learning, you can sign up for £4.83 per month on [classroomsecrets.co.uk/membership](https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/membership).

**Check out our daily timetable for Year 3 home learning activities on [kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk](https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk) >> Home Learning Timetable.**

## Efficient Subtraction

1.  $893 - 251 = 642$ . A is the most efficient method.
2. A = 20 (add 1 to both numbers); B = 30 (count on)
3. A.  $899 - 699 = 200$ ; B.  $900 - 700 = 200$

Method B is more efficient because 1 has been added to both numbers, so only the hundreds need subtracting.