

Activity:

The aim of this activity is for children to practise subtracting a 4-digit number from another 4-digit number. 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. If a digit in the second number is larger than the digit above it, you can increase the value by taking from the next column. This is called an **exchange**. In the example below, 5 is smaller than 7 so you need to take 10 from the 40, to turn 5 into 15.

$$\begin{array}{r} 345 \\ - 127 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Exchanging can occur when completing calculations. It may also be known as 'carrying' or 'borrowing' depending on the calculation involved. In addition, an exchange happens when a place value column has a value of 10 or more. For example, if there are 8 ones + 4 ones, the ones column will have a total of 12 counters. You cannot have 12 ones in that column, so 10 ones counters must be exchanged for 1 ten counter, leaving 2 ones counters in the ones column. This is the case for any column: if there is a value of 10 or more in one column, the 10 is exchanged for one counter in the column to the left.

Supporting resources:

You can watch a video tutorial about subtracting two 4-digit numbers on kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk >> **Year 4** >> **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 4 Playlist** >> **Subtract Two 4-Digit Numbers 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.

Check out our daily timetable for Year 4 home learning activities on kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk >> Home Learning Timetable.

Subtract Two 4-Digit Numbers

1. B is incorrect. The correct answer 819.

2. A.

	3	19	1	
	4	0	6	6
-		6	9	5
	3	3	7	1

B.

	6	14	1	
	7	5	0	4
-	2	6	8	1
	4	8	2	3

C.

		2	15	1
	5	3	6	1
-	2	0	7	9
	3	2	8	2

4,823

3,282

3,371

3. Trovak is incorrect. The correct calculation is $8,405 - 3,686 = 4,719$. Accept correctly formatted column subtraction.

	7	13	19	1
	8	4	0	5
-	3	6	8	6
	4	7	1	9