

Activity:

The aim of this activity is for children to practise subtracting numbers with more than 4 digits using formal methods. 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:

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

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.

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

Supporting resources:

You can watch a video tutorial about subtracting more than 4 digits on [kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk](https://www.classroomsecrets.co.uk) >> **Year 5** >> **Maths** >> **Place Value** >> **Video Tutorials**.

You can watch the answer explanation video which takes children through this activity pack and ways to answer it on <https://www.youtube.com/user/ClassroomSecretsLtd/playlists> >> **Year 5 Playlist** >> **Subtract More Than 4 Digits 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://www.classroomsecrets.co.uk/membership).

Check out our daily timetable for Year 5 home learning activities on [kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk](https://www.classroomsecrets.co.uk) >> Home Learning Timetable.

Subtract More Than 4 Digits

1. A, B and D are incorrect.
2. The order from 1 to 4 is C, B, D and A.
3. Pirate Paul is correct. $41,942 - 20,568 = 21,374$; $21,374 - 10,938 = 10,436$; Pirate Paul is correct because 10,436 is 7 less than 10,443.