Name: _____ Date: _____

Making Change at the Store

Circle group

Math helps you when you buy something. Say you want a notebook that costs 3 dollars and 40 cents. You hand the cashier a five-dollar bill. The cashier gives you change. Change is the money left over. To find it, you subtract. Five dollars minus 3 dollars and 40 cents is 1 dollar and 60 cents.

There is another way to make change. Many cashiers use it. They count up from the price. First they give you 10 cents. That makes 3 dollars and 50 cents. Next they give you two quarters. That makes 4 dollars. Then a one-dollar bill makes 5 dollars. Add up what you got. Ten cents plus 50 cents plus 1 dollar is 1 dollar and 60 cents. It is the same answer.

Counting up is a good trick for mental math. You can use it to check your change before you leave the counter. It also shows that adding and subtracting go together. Each one can undo the other.

Questions

1. What is change?

_____

_____

2. How much change do you get from five dollars for a notebook that costs 3 dollars and 40 cents?

_____

_____

3. What does it mean to count up from the price?

_____

_____

4. What does the cashier hand you when counting up?

_____

_____

5. Why is counting up a good way to check your change?

_____

_____

6. What is true about adding and subtracting?

_____

_____

Words to know

cashier: a worker who takes payment in a store
subtract: to take one number away from another
mental math: figuring out numbers in your head

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Making Change at the Store

Triangle group

Math helps you every time you buy something. Suppose you want a notebook that costs 3 dollars and 40 cents, and you hand the cashier a five-dollar bill. The cashier must give you change, which is the money left over. To find it, you subtract. Five dollars minus 3 dollars and 40 cents is 1 dollar and 60 cents.

There is another way to make change, and many cashiers use it. They count up from the price. First they hand you 10 cents, which brings the total to 3 dollars and 50 cents. Next they hand you two quarters, which brings it to 4 dollars. Then a one-dollar bill brings it to 5 dollars. Add up what you were handed. Ten cents plus 50 cents plus 1 dollar is 1 dollar and 60 cents. It is the same answer.

Counting up is a handy trick for mental math. You can use it to check your change before you walk away from the counter. It also shows that adding and subtracting are closely connected. Each one can undo the other.

Questions

1. What is change?

_____

_____

2. How much change do you get from a five-dollar bill for a notebook that costs 3 dollars and 40 cents?

_____

_____

3. What does it mean to count up from the price?

_____

_____

4. What coins and bills does the cashier hand you in the counting up example?

_____

_____

5. Why is counting up a good way to check your change?

_____

6. What does the passage say is true about adding and subtracting?

Words to know

cashier: a worker who takes payment in a store
subtract: to take one number away from another
total: the whole amount after adding
mental math: figuring out numbers in your head

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Making Change at the Store

Square group

Mathematics helps you every time you purchase something. Suppose you want a notebook that costs 3 dollars and 40 cents, and you hand the cashier a five-dollar bill. The cashier must return change, which is the money remaining after the price has been paid. To calculate it, you subtract. Five dollars minus 3 dollars and 40 cents equals 1 dollar and 60 cents.

There is an alternative method for making change, and many cashiers prefer it. They count upward from the price. First they hand you 10 cents, which brings the total to 3 dollars and 50 cents. Next they hand you two quarters, which brings it to 4 dollars. Then a one-dollar bill brings it to 5 dollars. When you add up what you were handed, 10 cents plus 50 cents plus 1 dollar equals 1 dollar and 60 cents. The answer is identical.

Counting up is a convenient strategy for mental math, and you can use it to verify your change before you walk away from the counter. It also demonstrates that adding and subtracting are closely connected, because each operation can undo the other.

Questions

1. What is change?

_____

_____

2. How much change do you receive from a five-dollar bill for a notebook that costs 3 dollars and 40 cents?

_____

_____

3. What does it mean to count upward from the price?

_____

_____

4. What does the cashier hand you in the counting up example?

_____

_____

5. Why is counting up a good way to verify your change?

_____

_____

6. What does the passage say about adding and subtracting?

_____

_____

Words to know

cashier: a worker who takes payment in a store
subtract: to take one number away from another
total: the whole amount after adding
mental math: figuring out numbers in your head

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Making Change at the Store

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Making Change at the Store

Easier · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. The money left over after you pay.
2. 1 dollar and 60 cents.
3. You add small amounts to the price until you get to the amount you paid.
4. 10 cents, two quarters, and a one-dollar bill.
5. It gives the same answer as subtracting. If they match, the change is right.
6. They go together, and each can undo the other.

Triangle: Making Change at the Store

This passage · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. The money left over after you pay.
2. 1 dollar and 60 cents.
3. You add small amounts to the price, one at a time, until you reach the amount you paid.
4. A dime (10 cents), two quarters, and a one-dollar bill.
5. It gives the same answer as subtracting, so if the two match, the change is right.
6. They are closely connected, and each can undo the other.

Square: Making Change at the Store

Harder · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. The money remaining after the price has been paid.
2. 1 dollar and 60 cents.
3. You add small amounts to the price, one at a time, until you reach the amount you paid.
4. A dime (10 cents), two quarters, and a one-dollar bill.
5. It produces the same answer as subtracting, so if the two match, the change is correct.
6. They are closely connected, because each operation can undo the other.