

Maya's Eco-Warriors Mission: Subtraction Adventure

Grade 1

math

eco-warriors

Students will be able to subtract numbers within 20 using counting back, drawings, and number sentences to show their working.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Maya finds 6 rare seeds. She plants 2 rare seeds in the soil. How many rare seeds does Maya still have?

2. Maya spots 9 unique river stones. She places 3 unique stones along the trail. How many unique stones does Maya have now?

3. Maya collects 12 special acorns for the forest. She gives 4 special acorns to a squirrel. How many special acorns does Maya keep?

4. Maya finds 14 rare fern shoots near the swamp. She plants 6 rare fern shoots in a clear patch. How many rare fern shoots are left in Maya's bag?

5. True or False: Maya has 11 unique moss clumps. She uses 5 unique moss clumps to cover bare ground. Maya has 7 unique moss clumps left. True or False?

6. Maya digs up 15 special bulbs near the hidden treasure tree. She tucks 8 special bulbs back into fresh soil to regrow. How many special bulbs does Maya still carry? Show your working.

7. Maya opens the hidden treasure chest. Inside she counts 18 rare flower seeds and 0 are missing yet. She sorts them into two groups. She puts 9 rare seeds into small clay pots. How many rare seeds stay in the hidden treasure chest?

8. Maya reaches the heart of the forest. She has 20 special eco-warrior tokens to share with the forest animals so new plants can grow. She gives 7 tokens to the deer family, then gives 6 more tokens to the bird flock. How many special tokens does Maya have left to protect the forest? Show every step.

Answer Key: Maya's Eco-Warriors Mission: Subtraction Adventure

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

After Q6, pause and ask students to act out Maya sorting seeds — one child holds up fingers for the starting number while classmates count back aloud as seeds are 'planted.' This physical countdown directly mirrors the take-away subtraction structure students calculated in Q6 (15 minus 8).

1. Maya finds 6 rare seeds. She plants 2 rare seeds in the soil. How many rare seeds does Maya still have?
Answer: $6 - 2 = 4$. Maya has 4 rare seeds left.
2. Maya spots 9 unique river stones. She places 3 unique stones along the trail. How many unique stones does Maya have now?
Answer: $9 - 3 = 6$. Maya has 6 unique stones left.
3. Maya collects 12 special acorns for the forest. She gives 4 special acorns to a squirrel. How many special acorns does Maya keep?
Answer: $12 - 4 = 8$. Maya keeps 8 special acorns.
4. Maya finds 14 rare fern shoots near the swamp. She plants 6 rare fern shoots in a clear patch. How many rare fern shoots are left in Maya's bag?
Answer: $14 - 6 = 8$. Maya has 8 rare fern shoots left.
5. True or False: Maya has 11 unique moss clumps. She uses 5 unique moss clumps to cover bare ground. Maya has 7 unique moss clumps left. True or False?
Answer: $11 - 5 = 6$. Maya has 6 unique moss clumps left, NOT 7. The answer is FALSE.
6. Maya digs up 15 special bulbs near the hidden treasure tree. She tucks 8 special bulbs back into fresh soil to regrow. How many special bulbs does Maya still carry? Show your working.
Answer: $15 - 8 = 7$. Count back: 15 → 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7. Maya still carries 7 special bulbs.
7. Maya opens the hidden treasure chest. Inside she counts 18 rare flower seeds and 0 are missing yet. She sorts them into two groups. She puts 9 rare seeds into small clay pots. How many rare seeds stay in the hidden treasure chest?
Answer: $18 - 9 = 9$. Maya has 9 rare seeds still in the hidden treasure chest.
8. Maya reaches the heart of the forest. She has 20 special eco-warrior tokens to share with the forest animals so new plants can grow. She gives 7 tokens to the deer family, then gives 6 more tokens to the bird flock. How many special tokens does Maya have left to protect the forest? Show every step.
Answer: Step 1: $20 - 7 = 13$ tokens left after the deer. Step 2: $13 - 6 = 7$ tokens left after the birds. Maya has 7 special eco-warrior tokens left. The forest is protected and new plants will grow!