

3rd Grade Subtraction Strategies

Example problem:
 $251 - 187 = 64$

Subtracting in Parts

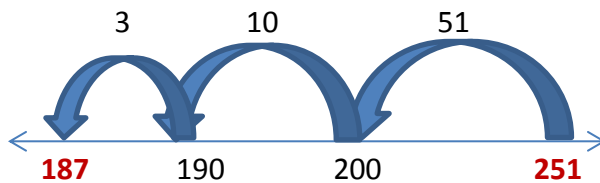
$$251 - 187 =$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 251 - 100 = 151 \\ 151 - 50 = 101 \\ 101 - 30 = 71 \\ 71 - 7 = 64 \end{array}$$

The 1st number **HAS** to stay whole . Break the 2nd number into manageable chunks.

Subtracting Back

$$251 - 187 =$$



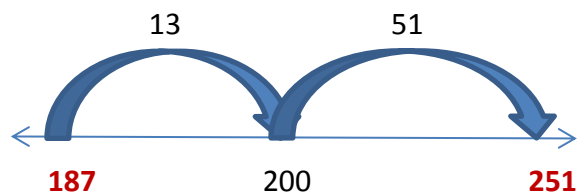
Label the two numbers from the problem on the number line. Start at the larger number on the right (251) and hop down until you reach the smaller number on the left. It is easier to hop to landmark numbers*. Then add the numbers on your hops.

$$3 + 10 + 51 = 64$$

The total is the answer.

Adding Up

$$251 - 187 =$$



Label the two numbers from the problem on the number line. Start at the smaller number on the left (187) and jump up until you reach the larger number on the right. It is easier to jump to landmark numbers*. Then add the numbers on your jumps.

$$13 + 51 = 64$$

The total is the answer.

*landmark numbers are numbers that end in zero. (90, 100, 270, etc.)