

Activity 1: What's Happening to the Number?

Recommended Ages: 5-8

Time: 5-10 minutes

Goal: Build an intuitive understanding of how addition and subtraction affect values.

Tell students that on some pages, there are math equations hidden in the pictures showing what is happening to the kittens' money.

Revisit several pages and ask:

- “Are the kittens spending money or earning money?”
- “Does the number get bigger or smaller?”
- “Are they moving closer to zero or farther from zero?”

Explain:

- Subtracting shows spending and moves the number down.
- Adding shows earning and moves the number up.

Optional Extension:

- “If the kittens kept spending without earning anything, could they ever get back to zero? Why or why not?”
- “How do the equations in the pictures show the difference between borrowing money and earning money?”

Optional Discussion (Any Age):

Introduce the idea of an integer

- “A whole number that can be negative, positive, or zero.”
- “For example: -2, -1, 0, 1, and 2 are all integers.”