Solving a Subtraction Problem

(page 1 of 3)

Here is another problem. $72 - 38 = \_\_\_$

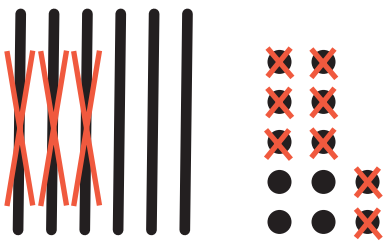
$$\begin{array}{r} 72 \\ -\ 38 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

There are many ways to solve this problem.

Some children show 72 stickers. Then they remove or cross out 38 of them, and count how many are left.

Amaya drew 72 stickers.

To cross out 38, she had to change one strip to singles.



She counted how many were left. "10, 20, 30, and 4 more is 34."

Carla used the 100 chart.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

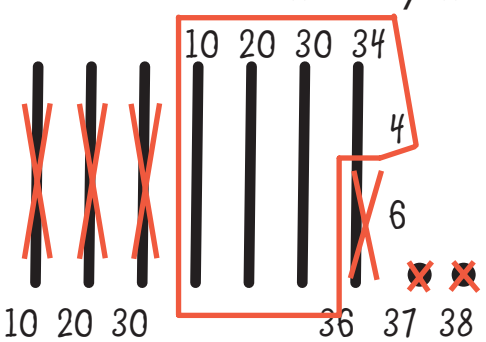
+ 2
+10
+10
+10
+ 2
34

72 − 38 = 34

Henry thought:

You can break 72 into 40 + 30 + 2. If you take the 38 away from the 40, there's 2 left. 2 + 30 + 2 = 34.

Roshaun drew 72 stickers, crossed out 38, and counted how many were left.



Solving a Subtraction Problem

Other children subtract 38 from 72 in parts.

Tia used the 100 chart. She started at 72 and counted back 38. She subtracted 2 first, then 30, then 6 more. 34 were left.

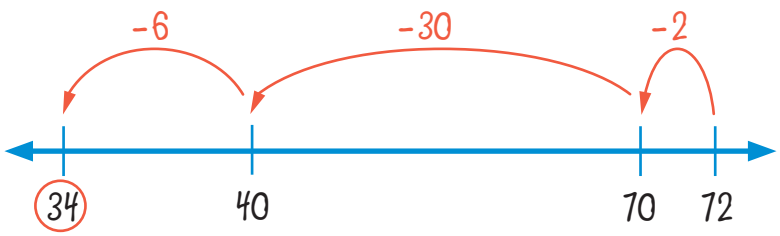
$72 - 38 = 34$

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
−6	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
−30	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
−2	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Melissa used the same strategy as Tia, but she used the number line to subtract in parts. She subtracted 2 first, then 30, then 6 more.

$72 - 38 = \_\_\_$

$72 - 2 = 70$
$70 - 30 = 40$
$40 - 6 = 34$



Alberto broke 38 into 30 and 8. First he subtracted the 30. Then he subtracted the 8.

$72 - 30 = 42$
$42 - 8 = 34$
$72 - 38 = 34$

Solving a Subtraction Problem

(page 3 of 3)

Solve 72 − 38, other children think, "38 + ___ = 72." They think about how much they have to add to 38 to get to 72.

Anita used the 100 chart to add up.

10 + 10 + 10 + 4 = 34

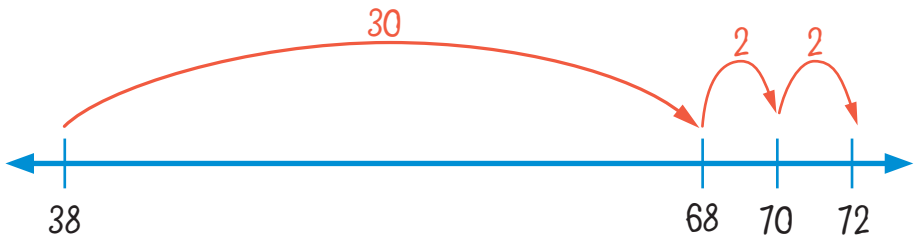
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	**38**	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Henry kept adding 10 until he got close to 72.

38 + 10 = 48
48 + 10 = 58
58 + 10 = 68
68 + 4 = 72

10 + 10 + 10 + 4 = 34

Lonzell used the number line to add up.



30 + 2 + 2 = 34