FINDING THE MISSING NUMBER IN A NUMBER SENTENCE
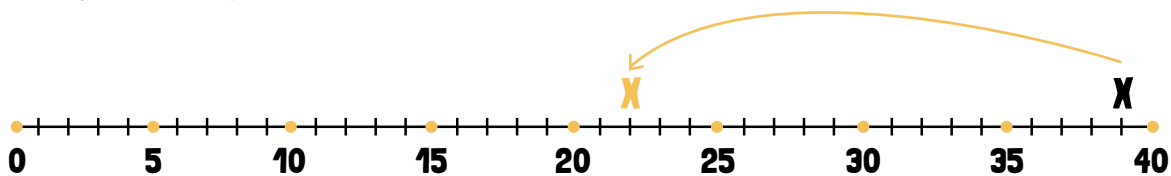
Subtraction

Imagine you are given a problem that looks like this: 39 cm - _____cm = 17 cm. How can you figure out what number to place in the number sentence to make it true?

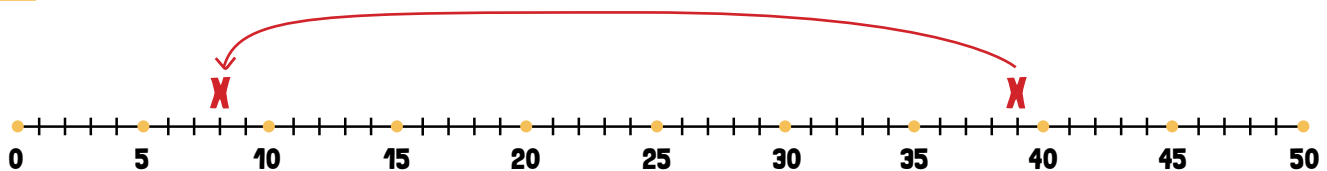**One way to solve this problem is to use a number line.**

Start by finding the number 39 on the number line. Then, start at 39 and count backwards on the number line by ones 17 spaces.
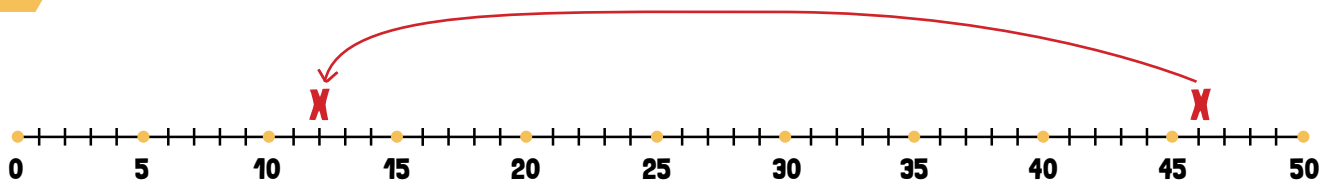

Whatever number you land on after counting backward 17 spaces is the correct answer. That number should have been 22. So, 39cm - 22cm = 17cm.

Now, you try. Use the number lines to help you solve for the missing numbers in these equations.

1   39 y - ___**31**___ y = 8 y

2   46 ft - ___**34**___ ft = 12 ft

3   35 in - ___**19**___ in = 16 in