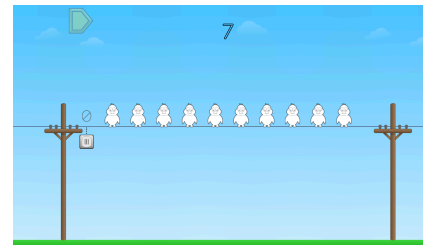


**Materials**

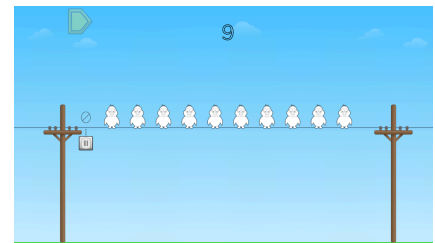
Bird Expression Game Mat (laminated or in plastic covering) and dry erase marker for each student math tools (such as snap cubes, counter, etc.)

- Give students the Bird Expressions Game Mat and dry erase marker. Display the first puzzle from Level 1 that does not have JiJi's Helping Hand.
- Ask students, "What do you notice?" Work together to count out the number of birds shown in the sky. When the minus sign and number appears, say to students, "What do you think we need to do to solve this puzzle? Use your game mat to solve the puzzle. Share your thinking with a neighbor."


**Directions**


- Have students come up with a strategy using their game mat.
- Have a volunteer share their strategy. Before trying the strategy, discuss it with the other students. Ask students if they agree or disagree and what they think will happen. Share students' thinking as a whole class.
- For those that disagree ask them to propose an alternate strategy. Ask students what the minus sign represents and what happens to the total number of birds when some of the birds fly away.
- Repeat with the remaining puzzles in Level 1. Begin a list of students' strategies for subtraction.

- Display the first puzzle from Level 2. Have students think about what they see in this puzzle and discuss what they notice with a partner.
- Ask students to share their answers and strategies. Try a couple of the strategies and discuss what the feedback teaches them about their strategy.
- Ask students to describe what is occurring in the puzzles. What are they learning?
- Do they notice any relationships or patterns?


**Sample Questions**

- What is happening in this puzzle?
- What happens to the total number of birds when some fly away?
- What happens to the total number of birds when some more birds land on the wire?
- What does the minus sign represent? The plus sign? The equal sign?
- What does each number in this equation represent?
- Do you notice any patterns?

**What to look for**

How does the student:

- model the problem on the Bird Expressions Game Mat using math tools?
- discuss and chart the math concepts and vocabulary evident in the puzzles?
- represent the puzzle with numbers and symbols?
- write equations to represent the problem and solution?
- discuss what the numbers in their equation represent in the puzzle?