I CAN FIND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POSITIVE & NEGATIVE NUMBERS
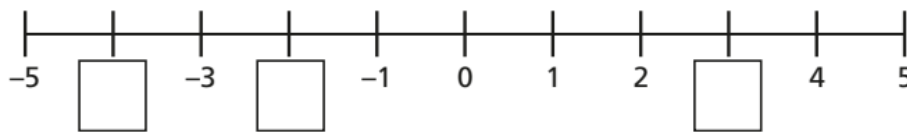
By the end of this term, children should be able to calculate the difference between positive and negative numbers.

Please note, where we have provided links to online activities we expect children to seek parent/carer permission to do this first.
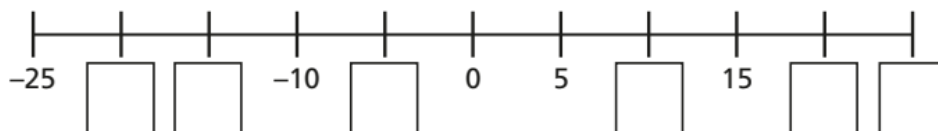
To find the difference between positive and negative numbers, children first need to be able to sequence negative numbers. Be careful – the ones below have different scales.
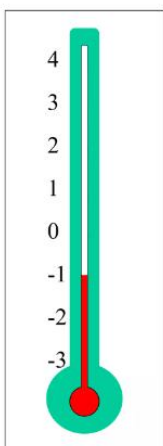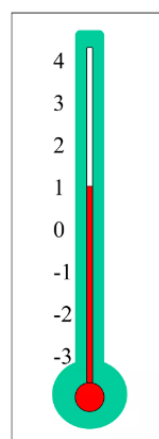
Complete the number lines.

a)

b)

Top tip: Looking at thermometer scales is a good way to explain the need for negative numbers. You could then ask about the difference between winter and summer temperatures.
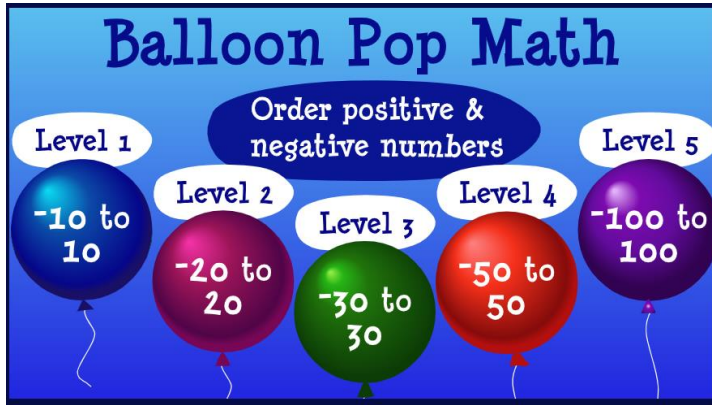
It is 4°C

- The temperature drops by 5 degrees

- What temperature is it now?

It is -2°C

- The temperature rises by 3 degrees

- What temperature is it now?

1. Before working out the difference between positive and negative numbers, it is helpful to be able to sequence them. Play 'BALLOON POP' to master this. Use your laptop or tablet to access the following link or to scan the QR code: **www.sheppardsoftware.com/math/numbers/ordering-positive-negative-balloon-pop/**
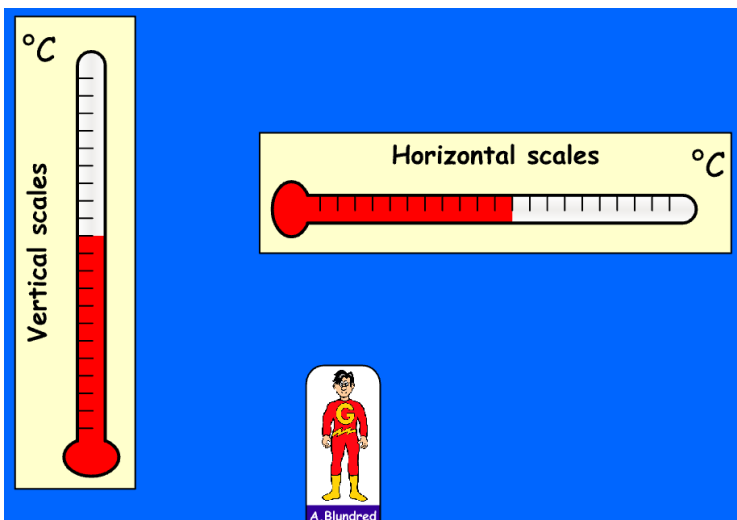

2. Now you can sequence negative and positive numbers, see if you can work out the difference between two temperatures on a thermometer.

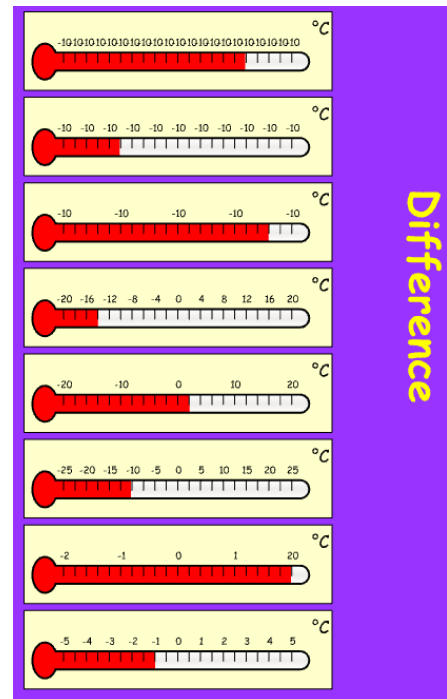Link: www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=Temperaturev2

QR Code:

Choose either horizontal or vertical scales:

3. Choose a scale from the 'DIFFERENCE' side of the screen:

See how many you can get right. Challenge yourself by going back to the 'DIFFERENCE' menu and changing the scale.