

Ravi's Bottle Cap Hundred



Figure 1: A cheerful child kneels on a sunny sidewalk sorting shiny bottle caps into small groups of ten, with a chalk hundred-grid drawn beside them

Numbers can be used for counting. A sum can be composed in multiple ways. Students investigate addition and subtraction within 100. "Let's count them," she said. They made groups of ten. One group. Two groups. Ten groups made a hundred! "What if we add them in a different order?" asked Ravi. He added the last pile first. "Still a hundred," said Mia. "The order does not change the total." Subtraction can be interpreted as taking away a quantity. "Now how many are left?" Mia asked. Ravi counted back from a hundred. "Ninety-three!" They checked by adding ninety-three plus seven. It made a hundred again. "Addition and subtraction are like undoing each other," said Mia, smiling. A sum can be composed in multiple ways, including with more than two addends.

Words to know

- **sum:** the answer you get when you add numbers together

- **difference:** the answer you get when you subtract one number from another
- **multiples of ten:** numbers like 10, 20, 30 that you get by counting by tens

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