Using Mental Math to Add and Subtract

There are different strategies for adding and subtracting with mental math.

Addition Strategies	**Subtraction Strategies**

Addition Strategies

With breaking apart you can add numbers in any order.

235 + 158	Break apart 158. 158 = 5 + 153
235 + 5 = 240	Add one part to make a ten.
240 + 153 = 393	Add the other part.

With compensation you can add or subtract to make tens.

235 + 158	Add 2 to make a ten. 158 + 2 = 160
235 + 160 = 395	
395 − 2 = 393	Subtract 2 from the answer because 2 was added earlier.

Subtraction Strategies

Using compensation

162 − 48	Add 2 to make 50. 2 + 48 = 50
162 − 50 = 112	
112 + 2 = 114	Since you subtracted 2 too many, add 2 to the answer.

Using counting on

400 − 185	Add 5 to make 190. 185 + 5 = 190
190 + 10 = 200	Make the next 100.
200 + 200 = 400	Add 200 to make 400.
5 + 10 + 200 = 215	Find the total of what you added.

Add or subtract. Use mental math.

1. 67 + 31 = _____

2. 86 − 14 = _____

3. 29 + 43 = _____

4. 206 − 78 = _____

5. Reasoning How can you write 72 + (8 + 19) to make it easier to add? _____

Marble Collection	
red	425
blue	375
green	129
yellow	99

Use mental math to solve.

6. How many more blue marbles are there than yellow marbles? _____

7. What is the number of red and green marbles? _____

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