

MATH UNIT GRADE 1	
Two Groups Side by Side	
How many more? How many fewer?	
4 LESSONS 4 x 30 MINUTES 3 SOURCE BOOKS	120 MINUTES

The question this unit follows

How much bigger, and how do you know?

About this unit A child may know which group has more and still not know how many more. This unit makes the difference visible. Students align two rows, match objects one to one, and read the unmatched part as the gap.

The same arrangement then answers three connected questions: How many more? How many fewer? How many must be added to make the groups equal? Students finish by saying one difference in both directions without rebuilding or recounting.

UNIT PROMISE

Every answer is tied to an arrangement students can point to. No comparison floats free of the matched rows.

UNIT DESIGN

A short, deliberate progression

Mathematical arc

1. Match two aligned rows and read the unmatched objects as the difference.
2. Read that same gap as the amount needed to make the groups equal.
3. Use a zero gap to prove that two groups have the same number.
4. State one difference both ways: more than and fewer than.

Source books Henry Keeps Score - Lessons 1 and 2 Open book Sir Cumference and the Off-the-Charts Dessert - Lesson 3 Open book The Yum-Yum House - Lesson 4 Open book

ADAPTATION NOTE

This guide keeps each source lesson's book connection and mathematical structure, but brings every working number within

20. Use the sequence and student pages here when teaching the unit.

GRADE 1 CURRICULUM PLACEMENT

Where This Fits in Your Year

North Carolina edition

This sequence fits naturally within North Carolina Grade 1 operations work, especially before students solve comparison situations independently in symbolic form.

Lessons 1 and 2 establish the central model. Students align two rows at the same starting line, match objects one to one and count only the objects without partners. They then read that visible gap in three connected ways: how many more, how many fewer and how many must be added to make the rows equal. The checkpoint requires the same number to answer all three questions.

Lesson 3 gives the zero case an important place in the progression. Students use a complete match to prove that two groups have the same number, rather than relying on appearance or recounting.

Lesson 4 reverses the language while holding the model still: one group is more than the other, and the other is fewer by exactly the same amount.

The unit is strongest as concrete preparation and reinforcement for comparison problem solving. It does not present story problems or require students to write equations. Add those representations later if the local expectation requires them; the four lessons here secure the quantitative relationship that those forms must express.

Strongest curriculum relationship

REINFORCES / PREPARES FOR

Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve comparison problems with unknowns (NC.1.OA.1). This unit reinforces only the concrete comparison structure. To complete the coded expectation, add contextual comparison problems, vary the unknown position, and introduce any other problem types or representations required by the jurisdiction.

OFFICIAL CURRICULUM SOURCE

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[mathematics](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools-classroom-resources-academic-standards-standard-course-study-mathematics)

[TumbleTA | Grade 1 Mathematics | North Carolina](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools-classroom-resources-academic-standards-standard-course-study-mathematics-tumbleta)

TEACHER MAP

Unit at a glance

1 | READ THE LEFTOVER

Source: Henry Keeps Score - How Many More, How Many Fewer Collect: Matched rows plus both comparison sentences.

2 | CLOSE THE GAP

Source: Henry Keeps Score - One More Makes It Match Collect: Four trials recording how many were added.

3 | PROVE A TIE

Source: Sir Cumference - The Same Number Collect: A match proof and one equality sentence.

4 | SAY IT BOTH WAYS

Source: The Yum-Yum House - Eight Fewer, Eight More Collect: Two sentences about one unmoved model.

Vocabulary - more / fewer - said as a pair about the same unmoved arrangement.

- match - place one object beside one object in the other group.

- left over - objects with no partner after matching.

- equal - the groups have the same number; nothing is left over.

EVIDENCE PLAN

Assessment that follows the model

Daily evidence Listen for complete comparison sentences while the child points to the unmatched objects. Keep one model or quick photograph from Lessons 1 and 2; collect the printed checkpoints after Lessons 2 and 4.

CHECKPOINT 1 - FIND AND CLOSE THE GAP

Rows of 7 and 4. The child identifies 3 more, 3 fewer and 3 to add. The same three must answer all three questions.

CHECKPOINT 2 - SAY IT THE OTHER WAY

Rows of 12 and 5. Without moving anything, the child states: 12 is 7 more than 5; 5 is 7 fewer than 12.

CULMINATING TASK - ONE MODEL, THREE STATEMENTS

Rows of 13 and 8. The child matches, identifies the 5 unmatched objects, states the difference both ways and records how many must be added to make the rows equal.

DECISION RULE

Secure means the child uses one aligned model for every statement. A correct number produced without matching is not yet the evidence this unit is designed to collect.

LESSON 1 | 30 MINUTES

Read the Leftover

Henry Keeps Score

Lesson 1 - How Many More, How Many Fewer

I CAN

I can match two groups and find how many more or fewer.

BIG IDEA

After one-to-one matching, the objects without partners are the difference.

SUCCESS EVIDENCE

The child points to the same leftover objects while stating both comparison sentences.

CONNECT	5 MIN
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Build rows of 5 and 3. Ask which has more, then ask how many more. Leave the second question open until students match.

SOURCE CORE	20 MIN
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Pairs build each score as a row, align both rows at the same start line, match one to one and count only the unmatched objects. For every card, students say both complete sentences.

CLOSE	5 MIN
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Use 4 flower cards and 3 flower cards. Students match, point to the one leftover flower and tell both comparisons.

COLLECT

One aligned score mat with the leftover visible and both sentences recorded or heard.

MATERIALS

Two-colour counters; aligned score mat; four score-pair cards within 5; flower cards; word cards: more, fewer, match.

WATCH FOR

Rows that begin at different places. Draw a start line and require both first counters to touch it.

LESSON 2 | 30 MINUTES

Close the Gap

Henry Keeps Score

Lesson 2 - One More Makes It Match

I CAN

I can add just enough to make two groups equal.

BIG IDEA

The difference and the amount needed to close the gap are the same quantity.

SUCCESS EVIDENCE

The child adds one counter for each empty partner position, stops exactly at equality and records the number added.

CONNECT	5 MIN
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Return to yesterday's leftover. Ask: If the shorter row grew, how many counters would fill those unmatched positions?

SOURCE CORE	20 MIN
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Pairs build 4 and 3, match the rows, and add into the empty partner positions one at a time. Repeat with three additional cards, including an equal pair that requires 0.

CLOSE	5 MIN
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Give rows of 7 and 4. Students find the gap, state both comparisons and add exactly enough to make the rows equal. Complete Checkpoint 1.

COLLECT

Four trials showing the starting pair and number added, including the zero case.

MATERIALS

Two aligned row mats; counters; four number-pair cards within 10, including one equal pair; Checkpoint 1.

WATCH FOR

Adding until the rows merely look level. Have the child touch each pair and each empty partner position.

LESSON 3 | 30 MINUTES

Prove the Tie

Sir Cumference and the Off-the-Charts Dessert

Lesson 3 - The Same Number

I CAN

I can prove two groups have the same number by matching.

BIG IDEA

A complete one-to-one match leaves a gap of zero; no recount is needed.

SUCCESS EVIDENCE

The child matches every object, identifies zero leftover and states that both groups have the same number.

CONNECT	5 MIN
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So far a gap has been visible. Ask what the model will look like when the difference is zero.

SOURCE CORE	20 MIN
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Pairs work with two prebuilt groups of 10. They align or pair the objects one to one without recounting, verify that nothing is left over, and state an equality sentence. Add one object to one side and test again.

CLOSE	5 MIN
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Show matched rows of 8 and 8, then add one counter to the second row. Students state what changed and identify the new gap.

COLLECT

The matched groups, a recorded gap of 0 and one sentence explaining why the groups are equal.

MATERIALS

Two groups of 10 counters in different colours per pair; two cups; aligned mats; word cards: equal, same number, zero.

WATCH FOR

Recounting instead of using the match. Cover any written totals and ask what the complete pairing proves.

LESSON 4 | 30 MINUTES

Say It Both Ways

The Yum-Yum House

Lesson 8 - Eight Fewer, Eight More, Same Eight

I CAN

I can state the same difference in two directions.

BIG IDEA

The comparison words reverse, but the difference does not change because the model does not move.

SUCCESS EVIDENCE

Both sentences name both groups, use the same difference and are spoken over one untouched arrangement.

CONNECT	5 MIN
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Display rows of 11 and 3. Ask for one comparison sentence, then challenge students to begin the next sentence with the other group.

SOURCE CORE	20 MIN
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Pairs build 15 and 7, align and match the rows, then count the 8 unmatched objects. They say: 15 is 8 more than 7; 7 is 8 fewer than 15. Repeat with two additional pairs within 20.

Complete Checkpoint 2 with rows of 12 and 5. Students explain why nothing moved between the two sentences.

COLLECT

Two complete sentences for each number pair, with the same difference used in both directions.

MATERIALS

Counters; aligned mats; three number-pair cards within 20; sentence frames; Checkpoint 2.

WATCH FOR

Searching for a new fact or moving counters before the reverse sentence. Cover the model and ask the child to reverse only the words and group order.

CULMINATING ASSESSMENT

Teacher key and compact rubric

Answer key - Checkpoint 1: 7 is 3 more than 4; 4 is 3 fewer than 7; add 3 to 4 to make 7.

- Checkpoint 2: 12 is 7 more than 5; 5 is 7 fewer than 12.

- Culminating task: 13 is 5 more than 8; 8 is 5 fewer than 13; add 5 to 8 to make 13.

Rubric

MODEL

Both rows share a start line and each object is matched one to one.

DIFFERENCE

The child counts only unmatched objects and uses that number as the gap.

LANGUAGE

Both complete sentences name both groups and reverse more/fewer correctly.

EQUALITY

The child identifies the same gap as the amount to add and stops at equality.

DEVELOPING / NOT YET

Developing: completes the reasoning with the model and a prompt. Not yet: gives an unsupported number, misaligns the rows, or changes the model between directions.

STUDENT RECORD | GRADE 1

Checkpoint 1: Find and Close the Gap

Name _____ Date _____ Match the rows from the start line. Point to the objects with no partner before answering.

ROW A

ROW B

7 is _____ more than 4.

4 is _____ fewer than 7.

Add _____ to 4 to make 7.

EXPLAIN

Why does the same number answer all three questions?

Checkpoint 2: Say It the Other Way

Name _____ Date _____ The rows are already aligned. Do not move anything. Use the same gap in both sentences.

ROW A

ROW B

12 is _____ more than 5.

5 is _____ fewer than 12.

EXPLAIN

Why did the number stay the same when more changed to fewer?

Performance Task: One Model, Three Statements

Name _____ Date _____ Match the rows. Circle the objects with no partner. Complete every statement from this one model.

ROW A

ROW B

13 is _____ more than 8.

8 is _____ fewer than 13.

Add _____ to 8 to make 13.

EXPLAIN

The difference is _____ because _____
