SUBTRACTION

A WHAT IS SUBTRACTION?

Definition Subtraction

Subtraction means taking away from a group to find out how many are left. The answer in subtraction is called the **difference**.

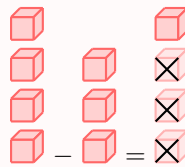In mathematics, we use special symbols for subtraction:

- The **minus sign** $(-)$ means to subtract or take away.

- The **equals sign** $(=)$ shows that the expressions on both sides have the **same value**.

Here are different ways to show "four minus three equals one":

- **Symbolic:**

$$4 - 3 = 1$$

- **Cubes:**

- **Fingers (Putting Down):**

- **Words:**

four minus three equals one

B HOW TO SUBTRACT

Method Subtracting by Taking Away

A simple way to subtract is by "taking away." You start with the total number and then put down the number of fingers you are subtracting.

Let's solve: $5 - 2 = ?$

- **Step 1: Show the starting number.** Hold up **5 fingers**. This is your total.

- **Step 2: Take away by putting fingers down.** You need to subtract 2, so put down **2 fingers**, one at a time.

- **Step 3: Count what is left.** Count the fingers that are still up. There are 3 fingers left.

The answer is 3.

$$5 - 2 = 3$$