

Max's Magnificent Mountain of Negative Numbers

Dive below the surface and climb above the clouds with Max's guide to the world of negative numbers!

- Numbers greater than zero are called positive, while numbers less than zero are called negative. Zero is the neutral starting point.
- When you move to the left on a horizontal number line, the values decrease. When you move to the right, the values increase.
- To find the difference between a positive temperature of 5°C and a negative temperature of -3°C , you must count the total distance between them, which is 8 degrees.
- In a bank account, a negative balance (represented by a minus sign, e.g., $-\text{£}10$) means you owe money, while a positive balance means you have money available.
- When adding a negative number to a positive number, you are effectively subtracting that value, moving further down the number line toward zero and beyond.

Did you know? Did you know? In the deepest parts of the ocean, temperatures can drop well below 0°C . Scientists use negative numbers to track these freezing conditions, just like Max the monkey uses them to calculate the difference between a high mountain peak and a deep underwater trench!

Key vocabulary: Negative · Positive · Interval · Ascend · Descend · Difference · Number line · Zero