# Counting Using Negative Numbers

You can count back from 10 in 2s by taking away 2 each time:

1

3

5

7

8

6

4

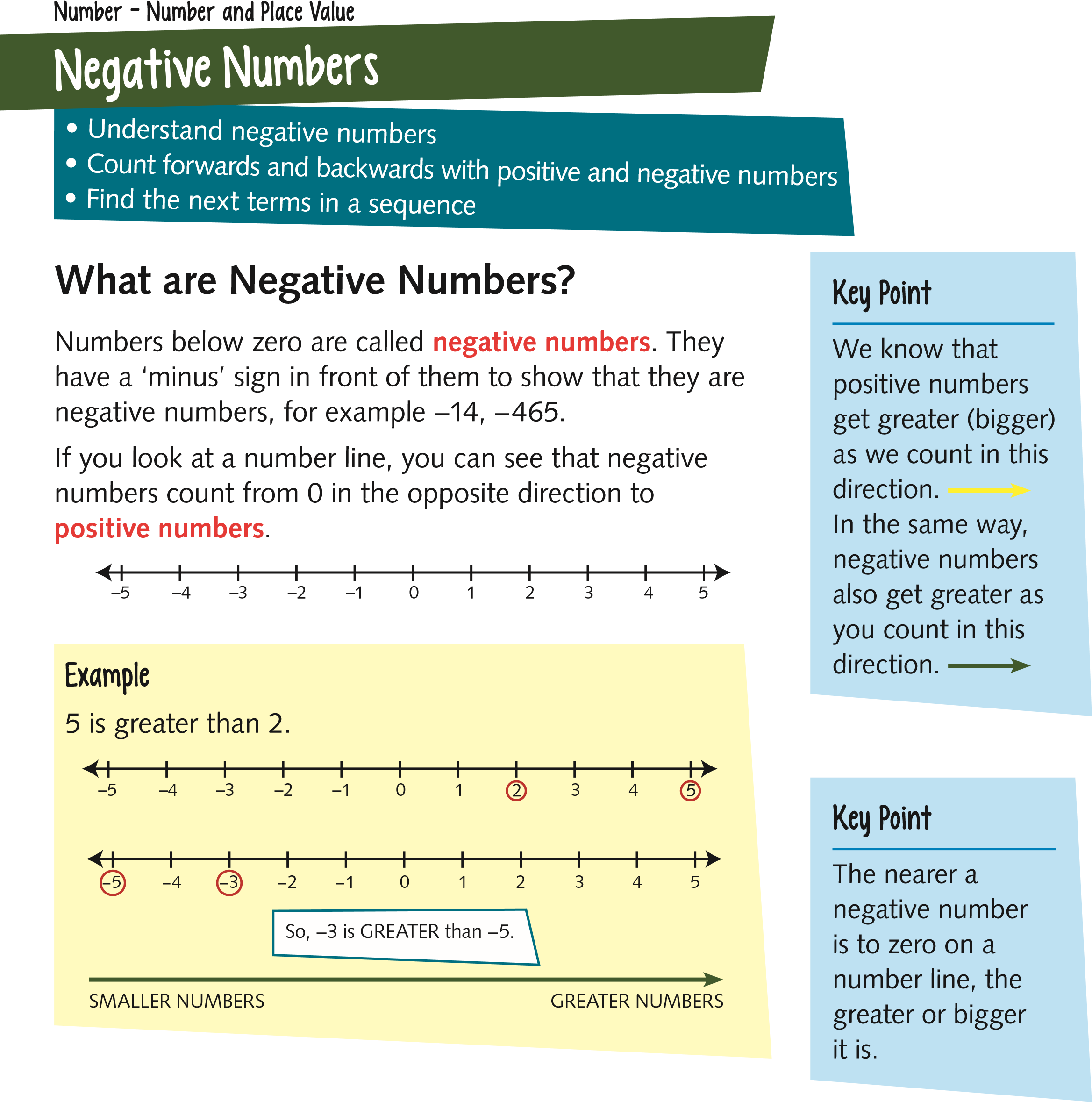
2

0

9 10 11

–11–10 –9 –8 –7 –6 –5 –4 –3

–2 –1

If you continue to count back in 2s, you can go beyond zero into negative numbers.

8

1

3

5

7

6

4

2

0

9 10 11

–11 –10 –9 –8 –7 –6 –5 –4 –3 –2 –1

**6**

# Counting Sequences

You can count on or back from any number in equal steps. This is called a **sequence**.

You need to be able to count on or back from any number in jumps of any size.

## Example

Counting from 5 in steps of 4: 5, 9, 13, 17…

Study

Count back in 100s from 953: 953, 853, 753…

Sometimes you are not given the steps.

Example

What are the next three

**terms**

or numbers in

this sequence?

, 10, 16,

4

First you need to work out the jump between each

number in our sequence.

4 10 16

+6 +6

4 10 16 22 28 34

+6 +6 +6 +6

+6

To jump from 4 to 10, you add 6.

To jump from 10 to 16, you add 6.

You can find the next terms by

adding 6 each time.



**7**

Quick Test

**1.**

Order these numbers from smallest to largest:

10

−3 5 −9 6 −2 0

−5

**2.**

Fill in the next three terms counting back in 3s:

4

1 −2

**3.**

Fill in the next three terms counting on in 50s:

−50

0

Key Words

**•**

Negative number

**•**

Positive number

**•**

Sequence

**•**

Term

## Tip

Always check your arithmetic carefully when counting on and back – it’s easy to make mistakes!