

## Adding and Subtracting Integers Strategies

### Walking Along a Number-line

Step 1: Start at the first number on the number-line.

Step 2: Look at the number being added or subtracted.

If it's positive, face right.

If it's negative, face left.

Step 3: Look if you are adding or subtracting.

If you're adding, walk forward.

If you're subtracting, walk backwards.

*Step 1*  
*Go to this  
number*

+

*Step 2*  
*Look at this  
number*



*Step 3*  
*Walk  
FORWARD*

*If + face right*

*If - face left*

*Step 1*  
*Go to this  
number*

-

*Step 2*  
*Look at this  
number*



*Step 3*  
*Walk  
BACKWARD*

*If + face right*

*If - face left*

## Using Integer Tiles

Place/draw the first number of tiles, in the right colour.

To add, add the number of tiles needed. Cross out any zero pairs (one of each kind), and count up what you have left.

To subtract, take away the number of tiles it says to.

If you don't have enough of that kind of tile, add zero pairs (one of each kind of tile) until you do have enough, then take away the number of tiles it says to.

## In Words...

To subtract integers, change the sign on the integer that is to be subtracted.

If both signs are positive, the answer will be positive.

$$\text{Example: } 14 - (-6) = 14 + 6 = 20$$

If both signs are negative, the answer will be negative.

$$\text{Example: } -14 - (+6) = -14 - 6 = -20$$

If the signs are different subtract the smaller absolute value from the larger absolute value. The sign will be the sign of the integer that produced the larger absolute value.

$$\text{Example: } 14 - (+6) = 14 - 6 = 8$$

$$\text{Example: } -14 - (-6) = -14 + 6 = -8$$