

# Fairground: counting below zero

## Strand

Counting and understanding number

## Learning objective

Count from any given number in whole-number steps, extending beyond zero when counting backwards; relate the numbers to their position on a number line

## Type of starter

Recall

### Whiteboard tools

- Start point: the riders start at ground level or zero.
- Move the riders up and down the ride in steps of 1 to solve a maths problem or number sentence.
- Use the 'notepad' to show calculations.
- Press 'new' to move the riders back to the starting point and to generate a new question.

### What to do

Use this activity to encourage the children to add or subtract mentally in steps of 1 when the number line extends below zero. Encourage them to use their individual whiteboards so that they can work out the answers for themselves prior to any class discussion. Extend the activity beyond the initial question by asking, for example: *What would happen if the riders now move down another 4 steps?* Illustrate this by dragging and dropping the riders to the new position. Invite children to come to the board to use the on-screen notepad to show their calculations.

### Differentiation

**Less confident:** support the children with the photocopiable 'Fairground: counting below zero' sheet on page 44, by setting some questions with the riders always starting at zero.

**More confident:** ask children what they think would happen if the riders move off the vertical scale shown.

### Key questions

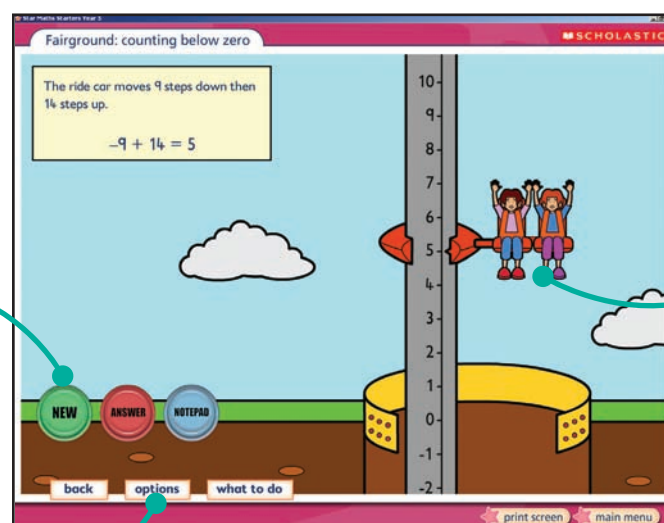
- *On which number do the riders end up? How do you know?*
- *From -6, how far up the ride would the riders need to climb to reach step 5?*

'new'

Press to generate different problems to solve

'options'

- Select 'up only' or 'up and down'
- Show or hide number sentence



riders

Drag car up or down ride