Teacher notes

Laminate the first, then, now grid for repeated use with a dry-erase pen.
Children will use manipulatives such as counters to represent the subtraction problem. Alternatively, this activity can be completed in books.

DEVELOPING ★ ☆ ☆   Children will solve problems involving calculations to 20 with subtrahends up to 4.

SECURE ★ ★ ☆   Children will solve problems involving calculations to 20 with subtrahends up to 6.
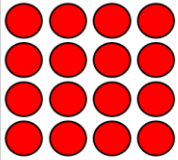
MASTERY ★ ★ ★   Children will solve problems involving calculations to 20 with subtrahends up to 10.

Step 1: Children will represent the subtraction problem using counters. They will place the starting number of counters in the FIRST section. They will write the first part of their calculation to show this.	Step 2: Children will then move the starting counters to the THEN section and remove the correct number of counters.	Step 3: Children will finally move the counters to the NOW box allowing them to complete the subtraction calculation.
First, then, now grid	First, then, now grid	First, then, now grid
Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.	Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.	Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.
FIRST / THEN / NOW	FIRST / THEN / NOW	FIRST / THEN / NOW
16 - ☐ = ☐	16 - 4 = ☐	16 - 4 = 12

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First, then, now grid

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.
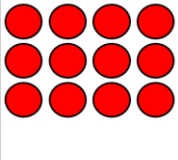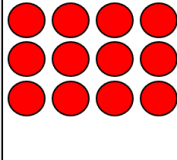
FIRST	THEN	NOW

$$\boxed{} - \boxed{} = \boxed{}$$

Subtraction problems

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.

First, there were **14** counters.
Then, **2** were taken away.
Now there are _____ counters.

First, there were **17** counters.
Then, **3** were taken away.
Now there are _____ counters.

First, there were **12** counters.
Then, **1** was taken away.
Now there are _____ counters.

First, there were **16** counters.
Then, **1** was taken away.
Now there are _____ counters.

First, there were **16** counters.
Then, **3** were taken away.
Now there are _____ counters.

First, there were **18** counters.
Then, **2** were taken away.
Now there are _____ counters.

Subtraction problems

★ ★ ☆

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.

First, there were **14** counters. Then, **3** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **19** counters. Then, **6** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **19** counters. Then, **4** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.
First, there were **17** counters. Then, **4** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **18** counters. Then, **4** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **16** counters. Then, **5** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.
First, there were **18** counters. Then, **5** was taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **17** counters. Then, **5** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **15** counters. Then, **2** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.

Subtraction problems ★★★

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.

First, there were **17** counters. Then, **6** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **20** counters. Then, **7** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **19** counters. Then, **7** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.
First, there were **14** counters. Then, **3** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **16** counters. Then, **6** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **13** counters. Then, **2** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.
First, there were **20** counters. Then, **9** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **17** counters. Then, **5** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **19** counters. Then, **8** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.
First, there were **19** counters. Then, **9** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **18** counters. Then, **7** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.	First, there were **20** counters. Then, **8** were taken away. Now there are ____ counters.

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.

First, there were **14** counters. Then, **2** were taken away. Now there are **12** counters.	First, there were **17** counters. Then, **3** were taken away. Now there are **14** counters.
First, there were **12** counters. Then, **1** was taken away. Now there are **11** counters.	First, there were **16** counters. Then, **1** was taken away. Now there are **15** counters.
First, there were **16** counters. Then, **3** were taken away. Now there are **13** counters.	First, there were **18** counters. Then, **2** were taken away. Now there are **16** counters.

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.

First, there were 14 counters. Then, 3 were taken away. Now there are 11 counters.	First, there were 19 counters. Then, 6 were taken away. Now there are 13 counters.	First, there were 19 counters. Then, 4 were taken away. Now there are 15 counters.
First, there were 17 counters. Then, 4 were taken away. Now there are 13 counters.	First, there were 18 counters. Then, 4 were taken away. Now there are 14 counters.	First, there were 16 counters. Then, 5 were taken away. Now there are 11 counters.
First, there were 18 counters. Then, 6 was taken away. Now there are 12 counters.	First, there were 17 counters. Then, 5 were taken away. Now there are 12 counters.	First, there were 16 counters. Then, 2 were taken away. Now there are 14 counters.

Select a subtraction problem and show it in the table to help you complete the calculation.

First, there were **18** counters. Then, **5** were taken away. Now there are **13** counters.	First, there were **20** counters. Then, **7** were taken away. Now there are **13** counters.	First, there were **19** counters. Then, **7** were taken away. Now there are **12** counters.
First, there were **16** counters. Then, **2** were taken away. Now there are **14** counters.	First, there were **18** counters. Then, **4** were taken away. Now there are **14** counters.	First, there were **18** counters. Then, **3** were taken away. Now there are **15** counters.
First, there were **20** counters. Then, **9** were taken away. Now there are **11** counters.	First, there were **17** counters. Then, **5** were taken away. Now there are **12** counters.	First, there were **19** counters. Then, **8** were taken away. Now there are **11** counters.
First, there were **19** counters. Then, **9** were taken away. Now there are **10** counters.	First, there were **18** counters. Then, **7** were taken away. Now there are **11** counters.	First, there were **20** counters. Then, **8** were taken away. Now there are **12** counters.