

Third Grade Math Subtraction Strategies

1. COMPENSATION

$$356 - 291$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ 360 - 290 = 70 \end{array}$$

$$-4 \quad -1 = 70$$

$$-4$$

$$\underline{11}$$

$$65$$

First, round each number to the nearest ten

Then add them

Subtract or add back the difference to the original number

→ Answer!

2. NUMBER LINE

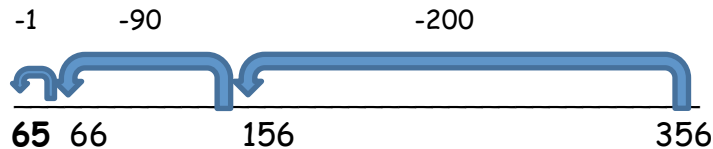
$$356 - 291$$

Draw a number line, starting with the first number (356)

Break the other number into Expanded Form

$$(291 = 200 + 90 + 1)$$

Jump back on the number line by these numbers



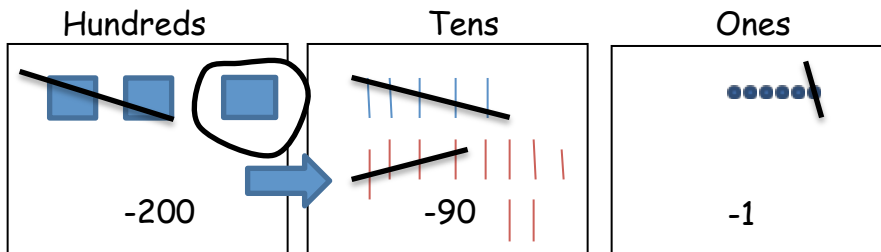
65 = Answer!

3. BASE BLOCKS

$$356 - 291$$

Expanded form: $300 + 50 + 6$ and $200 + 90 + 1$

Make boxes to represent each PLACE



-Enter in the value of the first number in the appropriate place

-Subtract the second number **starting from the ones to tens to hundreds**

-Decompose new numbers when you need more to subtract

-What's left?

0

6

5

65 → Answer!

4. DECOMPOSING

$$356 - 291$$

$$300 + 50 + 6$$

$$-200 + 90 + 1$$

$$+ ? + 5$$

$$200 + 150 + 6$$

$$-200 + 90 + 1$$

$$0 + 60 + 5$$

Write in expanded form

Subtract them from right to left

Fix the place value by decomposing bigger numbers

Subtract again from right to left

= 65

→ Answer!