



Lesson Plan:

Solving Addition and Subtraction Word Problem

Standard 1.OA.1:

Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions. Use objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

Objective:

Students will solve addition and subtraction word problems within 20 by using **objects, drawings, and equations**.

They will learn to identify unknown numbers and represent them with a symbol in equations.

Materials:

- Counters, small objects, or cubes
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers
- Paper and pencils
- Word problem cards or story prompts
- Optional: number line or ten-frame template

Lesson Introduction (10–15 minutes):

Begin with a discussion:

- “What does it mean to add something?”
- “What does it mean to take away?”
- “How can we figure out an unknown number in a story problem?”

Show a simple word problem on the board:

"Sally has 7 apples. She gets 5 more apples. How many apples does she have now?"

Demonstrate solving it using:

1. **Objects** – place 7 counters and add 5 more.
2. **Drawing** – draw 7 apples, then 5 more.
3. **Equation** – $7 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$

Ask: “What number goes in the blank

Introduce the symbol for an unknown number (e.g., $\underline{\quad}$ or $?$) and explain that it shows the number we need to find?



Word Problem Strategies (Discussion Guide):

Step	Purpose	Example
Use Objects	Count real items to solve the problem	7 cubes + 5 cubes = ?
Draw a Picture	Represent the problem visually Draw	7 stars, then 5 more
Write an Equation	Use numbers and a symbol for the unknown	$7 + 5 = ?$ or $? - 3 = 9$
Solve	Find the unknown number	$? = 1$

Ask students:

- “Which strategy helps you the most?”
- “How do we know we are correct?”

Activity: Word Problem Practice (20–30 minutes):

Instructions:

1. Give students counters or cubes, and paper for drawings.
2. Present word problems that include:
 - **Adding to:** “Tom has 8 marbles. He gets 4 more. How many now?”
 - **Taking from:** “Sara has 10 pencils. She gives 3 to a friend. How many left?”
 - **Putting together / Taking apart:** “There are 5 red blocks and 7 blue blocks. How many blocks in total?”
 - **Comparing:** “Liam has 12 stickers. Mia has 7 stickers. How many more stickers does Liam have?”
3. Students solve each problem using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown.
4. Encourage students to explain their thinking to a partner.

Optional Variation:

Create a “Word Problem Station” with cards and manipulatives for small groups to rotate through.

Closing Discussion (5–10 minutes):

Gather students together and discuss:

- “Which type of word problem was easiest?”
- “How did using objects or drawings help you?”
- How do you know your answer is correct?”

Summarize:

“Using objects, drawings, and equations helps us solve problems and find unknown numbers.”



Extension Ideas:

- **Writing Connection:** Have students create their own word problems for a partner to solve.
- **Real-Life Math:** Use classroom items (markers, pencils, books) to create addition/subtraction stories.
- **Number Line Challenge:** Solve word problems using a number line for visual support.
- **Digital Extension:** Use an interactive math app to represent and solve addition/subtraction stories.