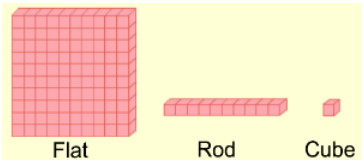
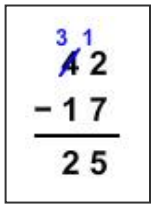
Vocabulary: Subtracting Whole Numbers and Decimals

Vocabulary

- Base-10 blocks – a set of blocks that is used to represent the base-10 system.
  - Three types of blocks are shown in the *Subtracting Decimals* Gizmo:
    - A *cube* is a single block.
    - A *rod* is a row of 10 cubes.
    - A *flat* is a square array of 100 cubes. (A flat is also a stack of 10 rods.)



- Base-10 system – a system of numbers based on powers of 10.
  - The base-10 system uses 10 digits: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.
  - The position of a digit determines its value. For example, the number 647 means 6 hundreds, 4 tens, and 7 ones.
  - The base-10 system can also represent numbers smaller than 1. For example, 0.27 means 2 tenths and 7 hundredths.
  - The base-10 system is also called the decimal system.
- Decimal – a number written in the base-10 system.
  - Usually "decimal" refers to a number that contains a *decimal point*.
  - The portion to the right of the decimal point is often referred to as the "decimal part" of the number.
- Difference – the result of subtracting numbers.
  - The difference between 8 and 3 is 5 because 8 – 3 = 5.
- Regroup – to rewrite a number by changing how it is composed into ones, tens, hundreds, etc.
  - For example, the number 35 is composed of 3 tens and 5 ones (30 + 5). By regrouping one of the tens into 10 ones, it can be written as 2 tens and 15 ones (20 + 15).
  - Regrouping can be helpful when solving a subtraction problem with multi-digit numbers, such as 42 – 17.
    - To find 42 – 17, first regroup 42 (40 + 2) into 3 tens and 12 ones (30 + 12).
    - Then to find 42 – 17, you can subtract the ones (12 – 7 = 5 ones) and the tens (3 – 1 = 2 tens). This gives you your answer: 42 – 17 = 25. (See the image at right.)



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