Negative Numbers

Learning Objective: We will learn how to think about negative numbers.

On a number line, negative numbers are numbers to the left of zero and positive numbers are to the right. Numbers decrease in value as we move left. They increase in value as we move right.

EXAMPLES:

a. The negative number \(-3\) is the number we add to \(+3\) to get \(0\). Positive 3 is three units to the right of zero. Negative 3 is three units to the left of zero.

b. Negative four is to the right of \(-5\). Thus \(-4 > -5\).

A Look at each number line segment and label the negative numbers which match the positive numbers shown.

B Write number sentences using >, is greater than, and <, is less than, for the following pairs of numbers. Show them on the number line.

REMINDER: Write the definition of negative numbers.