



Shared Problem #2

Brrr, its cold outside, soon Swan Lake will be full of ice skaters. Read the following math problems and write number sentences to represent the problem. Use a ? to represent the unknown. Try to write a number sentence in which the unknown represents an addend, minuend, or subtrahend.

1. The lake is frozen, overnight it freezes 2 more inches, it is now 6 inches thick.
2. 20 children are skating on the lake, more children join them, now there are 30 children skating on the lake.
3. Last night it was cold, today it warmed up 3 degrees, and now it is 23 degrees out.
4. There were 20 cups of hot chocolate, a dog came by and knocked some cups over with his tail, now there are 15 cups.

Work – I would use an assignment like this to show my 2nd graders that the unknown in a problem isn't always after the = (sum or difference).

1. The lake is frozen, overnight it freezes 2 more inches, it is now 6 inches thick.
 $? + 2\text{in.} = 6\text{in.}$
2. 20 children are skating on the lake, more children join them, now there are 30 children skating on the lake.
 $20 + ? = 30$
3. Last night it was cold, today is 3 degrees colder, and now it is 23 degrees out.
 $? - 3 = 23$
4. There were 20 cups of hot chocolate, a dog came by and knocked some cups over with his tail, now there are 15 cups.
 $20 - ? = 15$