

# POP THE BALLOON!

## SUBTRACTION

### GUIDED MATH WARM-UP



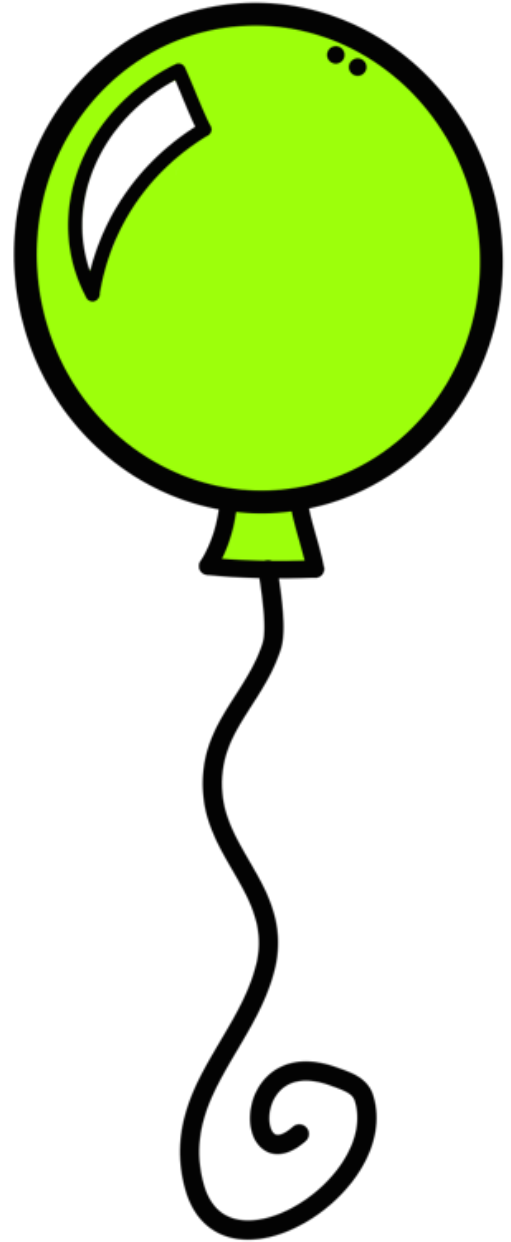
# ABOUT POP THE BALLOON:

Pop The Balloon! is a guided reading warm-up that I started to review phonics skills. It was so successful with my students that I decided to make math warm-ups too!

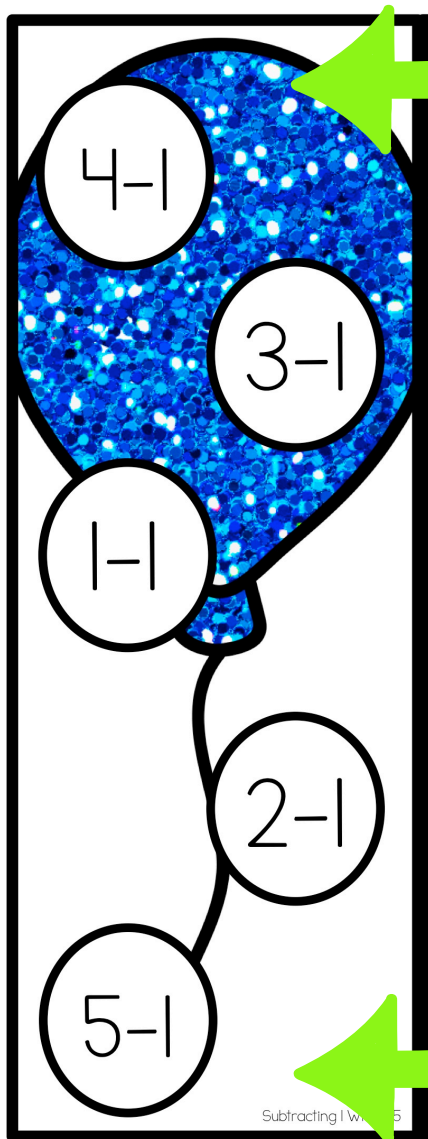
This subtraction version has 5 subtraction problems on each card. Each card also has the skill at the bottom of the card.

Students start at the bottom of the card and answer the problems to the top. My students would clap their hands together and say, "POP!" like they were popping a balloon (they came up with that idea!).

It is a fairly simple concept, but it's effective and kids really enjoy it.



# TAKE A LOOK:



Students read answer  
each equation on the  
way to the top

Students start here

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

## When do you do this activity?

I do this during guided math. My students have just moved to their centers and my guided math group has just sat down. During this time, I typically have to remind at least one student to stay on task or “your center is over there”. This wastes time from my guided math group. Rather than letting them sit there while I scan the room, I developed this guided math warm-up so that they could get warmed up for the group.

## Do the students have the same card?

You could do it that way. I didn't. I didn't think they needed to have the same card at the same time.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How long do you do this warm-up?

I spent the first 3-5 minutes doing this.

Did you listen to each student?

To set it up, I pass out a card (from the skill we are working on) to each student in my group. They quietly begin reading the words on the card. I listen to one student at a time. After I listen to one student and they get them all correct, I give them a new card. While they wait, they could be reading the same card more than once and that's okay because these help build fluency.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What if they get an answer wrong?

That's okay. Do what you would normally do in a lesson. The point of the warm-up is to build fluency so if they get an equation wrong, coach them through it like you would with any normal lesson.



READ THE BLOG POST

FOR MORE!

# THE FIRST 5 MINUTES OF GUIDED MATH



ALISHA GIARRATANA - MISSING TOOTH GRINS