

Algebra Tiles

Activity 1: Adding Integers

We are going to use positive (yellow) and negative (red) tiles to discover the rules for adding and subtracting integers. Each tile has a value of 1 or -1 .

$3 =$ 
 $-2 =$ 

A. Try the following additions with the tiles. Draw the tiles and find the integer answer.

	Model	Answer
1. $3 + 1$		_____
2. $3 + 5$		_____
3. $2 + 4$		_____
4. In every example above, what type of numbers were you adding?		_____
5. What operation did you perform with the number parts?		_____
6. What happened with the sign?		_____
7. What rule can you develop for adding positive integers?		_____

B. Try the following additions with the tiles. Draw the tiles and find the integer answer.

	Model	Answer
1. $-2 + -1$		_____
2. $-4 + -3$		_____
3. $-2 + -5$		_____
4. In every example above, what type of numbers were you adding?		_____
5. What operation did you perform with the number parts?		_____
6. What happened with the sign?		_____
7. What rule can you develop for adding negative integers?		_____