Lesson 1 Summary

We can use positive and negative numbers to represent temperature and elevation.

When numbers represent temperatures, positive numbers indicate temperatures that are warmer than zero and negative numbers indicate temperatures that are colder than zero. This thermometer shows a temperature of -1 degree Celsius, which we write -1° C.



When numbers represent elevations, positive numbers indicate positions above sea level and negative numbers indicate positions below sea level.

We can see the order of signed numbers on a number line.

-10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

A number is always less than numbers to its right. So -7 < -3.

We use absolute value to describe how far a number is from 0. The numbers 15 and -15 are both 15 units from 0, so |15| = 15 and |-15| = 15. We call 15 and -15 *opposites*. They are on opposite sides of 0 on the number line, but the same distance from 0.