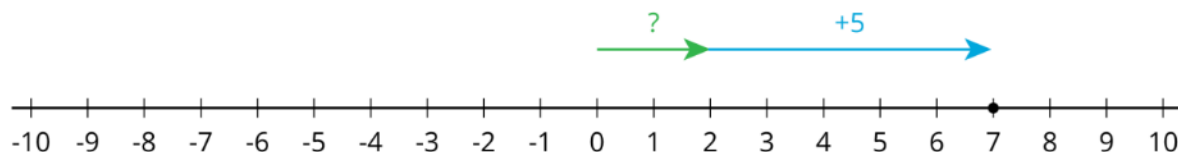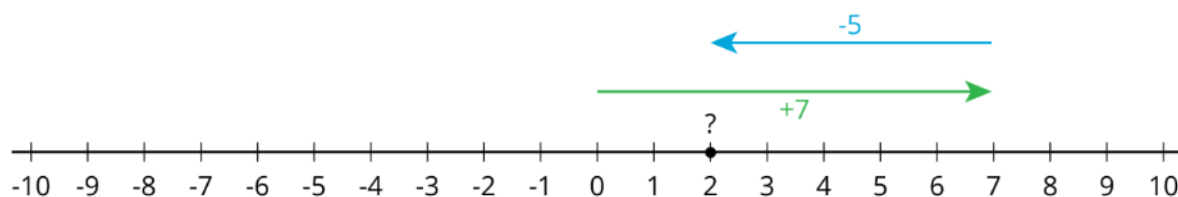## Lesson 5 Summary

The equation $7 - 5 = ?$ is equivalent to $? + 5 = 7$. The diagram illustrates the second equation.
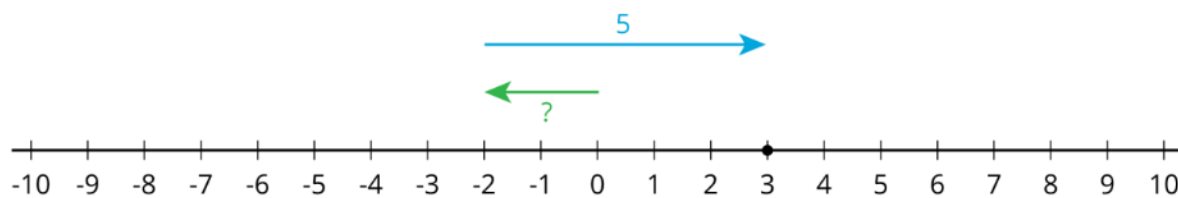

Notice that the value of $7 + (-5)$ is 2.
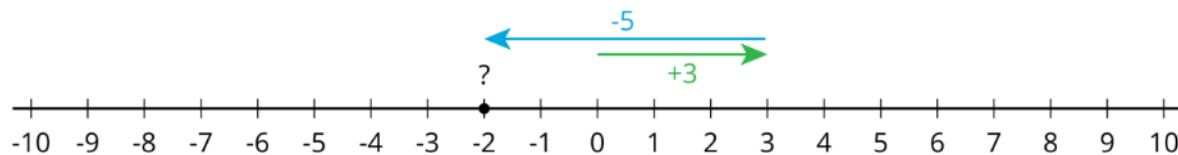

We can solve the equation $? + 5 = 7$ by adding -5 to both sides. This shows that $7 - 5 = 7 + (-5)$

Likewise, $3 - 5 = ?$ is equivalent to $? + 5 = 3$.

Notice that the value of $3 + (-5)$ is -2.

We can solve the equation $? + 5 = 3$ by adding -5 to both sides. This shows that $3 - 5 = 3 + (-5)$

In general:

$$a - b = a + (-b)$$

If $a - b = x$, then $x + b = a$. We can add $-b$ to both sides of this second equation to get that $x = a + (-b)$