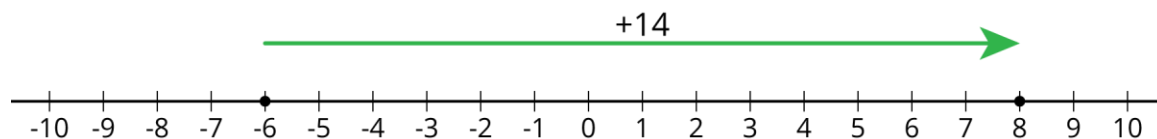


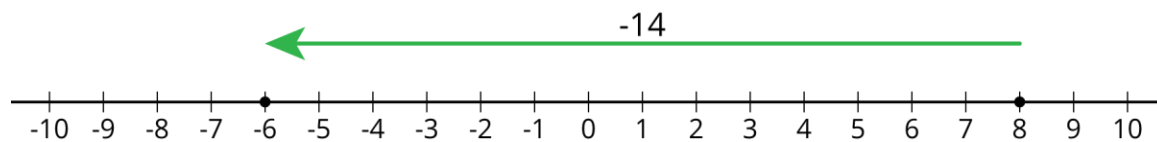
Lesson 6 Summary

When we talk about the difference of two numbers, we mean, “subtract them.” Usually, we subtract them in the order they are named. For example, the difference of +8 and -6 is $8 - (-6)$.

The difference of two numbers tells you how far apart they are on the number line. 8 and -6 are 14 units apart, because $8 - (-6) = 14$:



Notice that if you subtract them in the opposite order, you get the opposite number:



$$(-6) - 8 = -14$$

In general, the distance between two numbers a and b on the number line is $|a - b|$. Note that the *distance* between two numbers is always positive, no matter the order. But the *difference* can be positive or negative, depending on the order.