

**Example: Solve 642 - 379 using the partial differences method**

$$642 - 379 = ?$$

Subtract the 100's:  $600 - 300 = 300$   
Use a "+" sign because the bottom number is smaller.

Subtract the 10's:  $40 - 70 = 30$   
Use a "-" sign because the top number is smaller.

Subtract the 1's:  $2 - 9 = 7$   
Use a "-" sign because the top number is smaller.

$$\begin{array}{r} 642 \\ - 379 \\ \hline + 300 \\ - 30 \\ - 7 \\ \hline 263 \end{array}$$

Total the "partial differences" to find your difference.

$$642 - 379 = 263$$

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

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