

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.

$$642 - 379 = 263$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 398 \\ - 389 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 700 \\ - 422 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 600 \\ - 137 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 995 \\ - 179 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 370 \\ - 199 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 617 \\ - 135 \\ \hline \end{array}$$