4.7 Mathematical signs

Topic: Measurement
Subtopic: Length
Activity type/skill: Using symbols
Literacy focus: Vocabulary

Objective
- Recognise and understand the meaning of the most common mathematical signs.

What you need
- Student worksheet (see next page)
- Audio track 4.7

What to do
1. Look at the first page of the student worksheet and talk about the mathematical signs and the different words we can use to describe each one.

2. Talk about the ways the equations at the bottom of the page can be worded, for example, 21 minus 9 equals 12, then have them write the name of the operation, for example, subtraction, on the line beside each one.

3. Write more equations for them to describe in words. Have them work in pairs to write equations for one another.

4. Look at the example at the top of the second page of the student worksheet and talk about the meaning of the word 'equation'.

5. Play track 4.7 (Track 3 for this topic) and have students listen and write the equations they hear using numbers and mathematical signs.

6. Have students do the puzzle at the bottom of the worksheet and help them if they have any difficulty. (The answer will always be 7.)

Answers:

1. 10 + 9 = 19	2. 3 x 6 = 18
3. 18 - 5 = 3	4. 24 ÷ 3 = 8
5. 6 x 9 = 54	6. 30 ÷ 3 = 10
7. 15 - 9 = 6	8. 28 - 17 = 11
9. 2 + 3 = 5	10. 14 - 4 = 10

Mathematical signs

+	plus add and	$2 + 4 = 6$	This is **addition**
–	take away minus subtract	$12 - 9 = 3$	This is **subtraction**
÷	divided by divide	$18 \div 3 = 6$	This is **division**
X	times multiplied by	$6 \times 4 = 24$	This is **multiplication**
=	is equal to is/ are equals	$5 + 5 + 5 = 15$	
<	is less than	$17 < 26$	
>	is greater than	$49 > 31$	

$21 - 9 = 12$ _____

$8 \times 8 = 64$ _____

$30 \div 6 = 5$ _____

$7 + 44 = 51$ _____

$5 \times 4 = 20$

$16 \div 2 = 8$

$6 + 9 = 15$

$33 - 8 = 25$

These are **equations**.

Both sides are **equal**.

Track 3

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Choose a number between 1 and 10. ____

Take away 2   = ____

Multiply by 3   = ____

Add 12   = ____

Divide by 3   = ____

Add 5   = ____

Subtract your first number   = ____