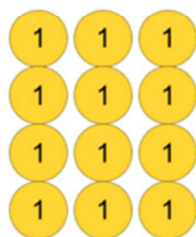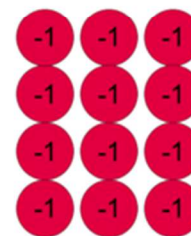# Multiplying Negative and Positive Numbers

Negative numbers are less than zero and written with a sign, e.g. (-3). Positive numbers are greater than zero and usually don't have a sign, e.g. 4. (Images created using free virtual manipulatives available at Mathsbot.com)
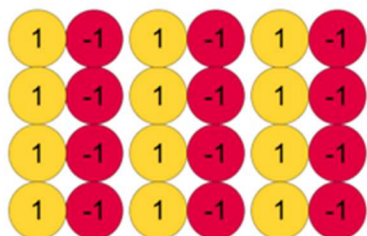
3 x 4
Add three lots of 4
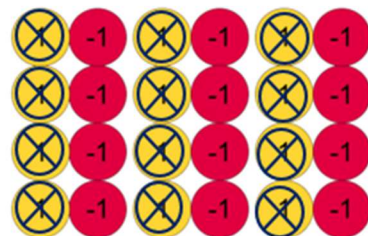

Answer 12

3 x (-4)
Add three lots of (-4)

Answer (-12)

(-3) x 4
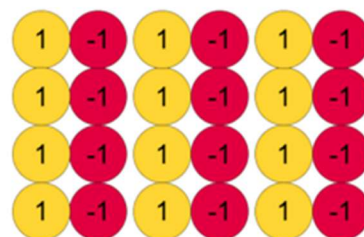Takeaway three lots of 4

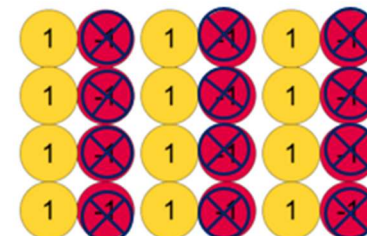Create zero number pairs   Answer (-12)

(-3) x (-4)
Takeaway three lots of (-4)

Create zero number pairs   Answer 12