Understanding Integers
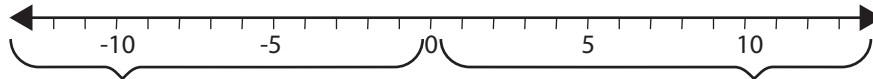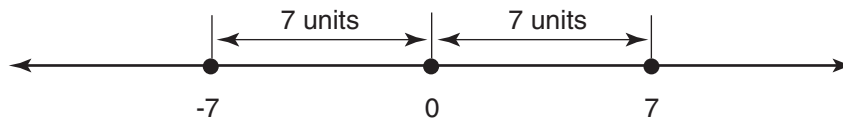

Negative integers are the opposite of positive integers.

Zero is neither positive nor negative. The opposite of 0 is 0.

Positive integers are also called counting numbers.

The **absolute value** of an integer is the distance from that integer to zero on the number line. Distance is always a positive measure, so the absolute value of any integer is positive.

The distance from 0 to 7 is 7 units, so $|7| = 7$.

The distance from 0 to -7 is 7 units, so $|-7| = 7$.

Use the number line above. Write the integer for each point. Then write its opposite and absolute value.

1. A _____

2. B _____

3. C _____

4. D _____

5. E _____

6. F _____

7. G _____

8. H _____

9. J _____

10. Number Sense John borrowed $6 from Adam. The next week John borrowed $15 more from Adam. Write an integer that represents John's total debt to Adam. _____

11. Reasoning What is the opposite of the opposite of negative nine? _____