Problem Solving
Solving Subtraction Equations

Write and solve subtraction equations to answer the questions.

1. Dr. Felix Hoffman invented aspirin in 1899. That was 29 years before Alexander Fleming invented penicillin. When was penicillin invented?

2. Kimberly was born on February 2. That is 10 days earlier than Kent’s birthday. When is Kent's birthday?

3. Kansas and North Dakota are the top wheat-producing states. In 2000, North Dakota produced 314 million bushels of wheat, which was 34 million bushels less than Kansas produced. How much wheat did Kansas farmers grow in 2000?

4. Scientists assign every element an atomic number, which is the number of protons in the nucleus of that element. The atomic number of silver is 47, which is 32 less than the atomic number of gold. How many protons are in the nucleus of gold?

5. The spine-tailed swift and the frigate bird are the two fastest birds on earth. A frigate bird can fly 95 miles per hour, which is 11 miles per hour slower than a spine-tailed swift. How fast can a spine-tailed swift fly?

6. The Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs played in the first Super Bowl in 1967. The Chiefs lost by 25 points, with a final score of 10. How many points did the Packers score in the first Super Bowl?

7. The Rocky Mountains extend 3,750 miles across North America. That is 750 miles shorter than the Andes Mountains in South America. How long are the Andes Mountains?
   A 3,000 miles
   B 5 miles
   C 180 miles
   D 4,500 miles

8. When the United States took its first census in 1790, only 4 million people lived here. That was 277 million fewer people than the population in 2000. What was the population of the United States in 2000?
   F 281 million
   G 273 million
   H 69 million
   J 1,108 million