Estimating Differences

Members of the Biology Club caught 288 butterflies and 136 grasshoppers in their nets. About how many more butterflies than grasshoppers did the club catch?

You can estimate by rounding. To round to a certain place, look at the digit to the right of that place. If the digit is 5 or greater, round up. If the digit is less than 5, round down.

Round to the nearest hundred.

Look at the digits in the tens place.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
288 & \to & 300 \\
-136 & \to & 100 \\
\hline
& & 200
\end{array}$$

There were about 200 more butterflies than grasshoppers caught.

Round to the nearest ten.

Look at the digits in the ones place.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
288 & \to & 290 \\
-136 & \to & 140 \\
\hline
& & & 150
\end{array}$$

There were about 150 more butterflies than grasshoppers caught.

Estimate by rounding to the nearest hundred.

Estimate by rounding to the nearest ten.

7. Critique Reasoning Charlie estimated 293 – 44 and got a difference of about 250. Is this a reasonable estimate? Explain.