Problem Solving • Comparison Problems with Addition and Subtraction

For a community recycling project, a school collects aluminum cans and plastic containers. This year the fourth grade collected 5,923 cans and 4,182 containers. This is 410 more cans and 24 more containers than the fourth grade collected last year. How many cans did the fourth grade collect last year?

Read the Problem		
What do I need to find?	**What information do I need to use?**	**How will I use the information?**
I need to find the number of cans the fourth grade collected last year.	The fourth grade students collected __5,923__ cans this year. They collected __410__ more cans this year than the fourth grade collected last year.	I can draw a __bar model__ to find the number of cans the fourth grade collected last year.

Solve the Problem
I can draw a bar model and write an equation to represent the problem. <table><tr><td colspan="2" align="center">5,923</td></tr><tr><td>410</td><td align="center">5,513</td></tr></table> $5{,}923 - 410 = $ __5,513__ So, the fourth grade collected __5,513__ aluminum cans last year.

Use the information above for 1 and 2.

1. Altogether, how many aluminum cans and plastic containers did the fourth grade collect this year?

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2. This year the fifth grade collected 216 fewer plastic containers than the fourth grade. How many plastic containers did the fifth grade collect?

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