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Regulars

Puzzle page

3 3 8 8 − Solution

The trick to this problem was finding a way to make the most of the two 3's and two 8's that you could use. The answer was:

$$24 = \frac{8}{3 - \frac{8}{3}}$$

To see how this works, start by writing the left hand side as:

$$\frac{\frac{8}{1}}{3 - \frac{8}{3}}$$

When you multiply this out it becomes clear that it is correct.

$$\frac{\frac{8}{1}}{\frac{9-8}{3}} = \frac{8 \times 3}{(9-8) \times 1} = \frac{24}{1} = 24$$

Clever isn't it!

Plus is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.