

Detective Work with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To make inferences from a text by using clues to understand a character's feelings and actions.

Read the short story about Max below. Look for clues in the text that tell you how he is feeling and why he is acting a certain way. Answer the questions using evidence from the passage.

Max the monkey sat at his wooden desk, surrounded by piles of shiny pebbles and colourful leaves. He picked up a pebble, turned it over in his hand, and sighed loudly. His brow was furrowed, and he tapped his chin with a twig. Suddenly, his eyes widened. He grabbed his notebook and began scribbling numbers faster than a falling coconut. A wide grin spread across his face as he pushed the pebbles into a neat, symmetrical square. He jumped up and did a little dance, waving his notebook in the air.

Word bank: puzzled · determined · calculate · scratched · frown · solution

1. How was Max feeling at the start of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Why do you think Max sighed and tapped his chin with a twig? (2 marks)

3. What does the phrase 'scribbling numbers faster than a falling coconut' suggest about how Max was working? (2 marks)

4. What had Max finally achieved by the end of the story? (2 marks)

5. Find one word in the text that tells us Max was happy at the end. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max's desk. Show the neat square of pebbles and his open notebook with the numbers he wrote down.



Extension challenge: Imagine Max has another puzzle to solve. Write two sentences describing a new clue that shows he is feeling frustrated before he finds the answer.