

Max's Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning objective: To read, write, and convert Roman numerals up to 100 (C) and understand the place value system behind them.

Max the monkey has discovered an ancient stone tablet in the forest! Help him decode the markings to solve these maths puzzles. Remember: I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, and C = 100.

Max has found a series of tablets marked with Roman numerals. He needs your expertise to translate these symbols into our modern number system to ensure his calculations are correct.

Word bank: Numeral · Value · Symbol · Ascending · Descending · Subtractive

1. Max finds a bag of coins labelled 'LXXV'. If one coin is worth £1, how much money does he have in total? Show your working. (2 marks)

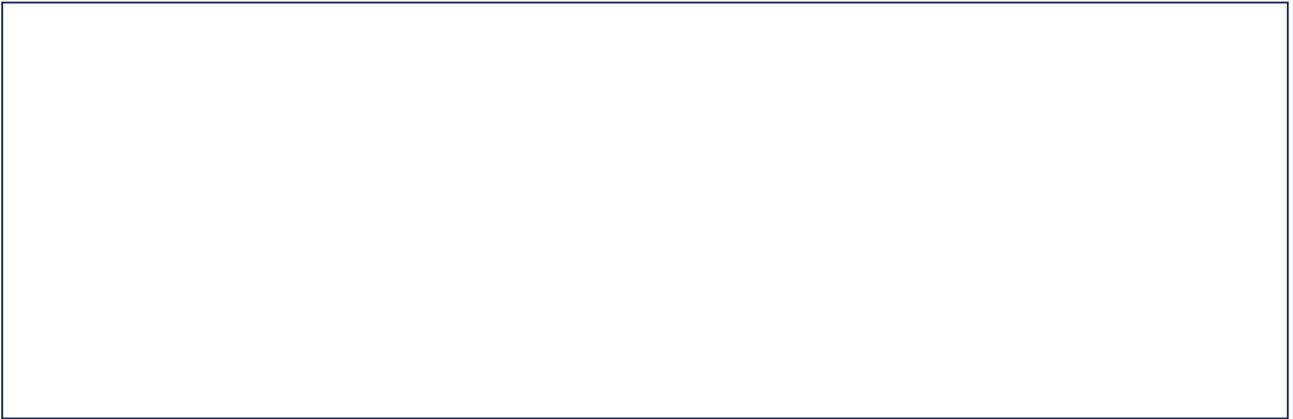
2. Convert the following numbers into Roman numerals: a) 34, b) 89, c) 92. (3 marks)

3. Compare the two values: XC and CIV. Which is greater? Justify your answer by explaining the place value of each symbol. (3 marks)

4. Max claims that 'IL' is the correct way to write 49. Is he correct? Explain why or why not using your knowledge of Roman numeral rules. (2 marks)

5. If Max adds XLV (45) to XXV (25), what is the sum? Write your answer as both a Hindu-Arabic number and a Roman numeral. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a set of ancient stone tablets decorated with Roman numerals that add up to the year of your birth.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing of ancient stone tablets with Roman numerals.

Extension challenge: What might happen if our modern number system used Roman numerals instead of the decimal system? Write a short paragraph discussing the difficulties you might face when trying to perform long multiplication or division.