

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop retrieval and inference skills by analysing a narrative text.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions in full sentences. For the extension task, provide a detailed written response.

Max the monkey stood at the bustling village market, his satchel brimming with shiny copper coins. Today was the day of the Great Fruit Fair, and Max had exactly £15.00 to spend on provisions for his friends. He spotted a crate of golden mangoes priced at £4.50 and a basket of crisp apples for £3.20. With a flick of his tail, Max pulled out his notepad. He loved the rhythm of addition and the logic of subtraction. If he purchased both, he would still have plenty left for the legendary honey-cakes. However, he noticed the stall owner looking rather flustered, struggling to tally the costs for a queue of eager animals. Max didn't hesitate. He hopped onto the counter, his nimble fingers dancing across the coins. He calculated the total cost in seconds, ensuring every penny was accounted for. The stall owner beamed, relieved by Max's clever assistance. Max felt a surge of pride; for him, the market was not just a place to shop, but a magnificent, living maths puzzle waiting to be solved.

Word bank: calculation · transaction · merchandise · astute · budget

1. How much money did Max have in his satchel when he arrived at the market? (1 mark)

2. Which two items did Max consider purchasing initially? (1 mark)

3. Explain why the stall owner was feeling flustered before Max arrived to help. (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'his nimble fingers dancing across the coins' suggest about how Max handles maths problems? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys helping others more than he enjoys shopping? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of the village market. Include Max the monkey at the stall, his notepad, and the colourful fruit he is helping to organise.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast Max's approach to the market with how you might approach a shopping trip. If Max had only £5.00 instead of £15.00, explain what might happen to his shopping plans and justify your reasoning. Finally, write a short paragraph describing what other 'maths puzzles' Max might find in a different location, such as a library or a park.