

Max's Roman Numeral Expedition

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

Max the monkey has been exploring the ruins of an ancient amphitheatre! Help him decode the stone carvings by solving these ten Roman numeral challenges. Write your answers clearly.

Answer Key: 1. B (10); 2. True; 3. C (100); 4. False; 5. XVIII; 6. 45; 7. XL; 8. C; 9. False; 10. 99. Explanation: Roman numerals use subtraction (e.g., IV is 4) and addition (e.g., VI is 6). A smaller value before a larger one means subtract; a smaller value after means add.

Word bank: I (1) · V (5) · X (10) · L (50) · C (100) · Subtract · Add · Symbol

1. 1. Max found a stone marked 'X'. What number does this represent? A) 5, B) 10*, C) 50, D) 100 (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: In Roman numerals, the symbol 'I' can be placed before 'V' to make 4. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which symbol represents one hundred? A) L, B) X, C) C*, D) V (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: The number 60 is written as VVVVVV. (1 mark)

5. 5. Write the number 18 as a Roman numeral. (1 mark)

6. 6. Max found a carving that says 'XLV'. What is this number in our decimal system? (1 mark)

7. 7. How would you write the number 40 in Roman numerals? A) XXXX, B) XL*, C) LX, D) XC (1 mark)

8. 8. If you have X, X, X, X, X, X, X, X, X, X, what is the total in Roman numerals? A) C*, B) L, C) X, D) XC (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: The Roman numeral for 9 is 'VIII'. (1 mark)

10. 10. Write the number 99 using Roman numerals. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a Roman pillar with your favourite number carved into it using Roman numerals. Decorate the base with laurel leaves.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the Romans used a subtraction rule (like IV for 4) instead of just writing IIII. 2. Compare and contrast our decimal system (base 10) with the Roman numeral system; which is easier for large calculations and why? 3. Justify your answer: Is it possible to write the number 0 in Roman numerals? Why or why not? 4. What might happen if we tried to represent the price of a toy costing £125 using only the standard seven Roman numeral symbols (I, V, X, L, C, D, M)? 5. Create a secret code using Roman numerals for a friend to solve. 6. If Max had three coins worth X and two coins worth V, how much would he have in total? Show your working.