

Max's Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning objective: To read and write Roman numerals up to 100 (C) and understand how they work.

Read the information below about Roman numerals. Use the reference table to help Max the monkey solve the puzzles. Remember: I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100.

Max the monkey has been exploring the history of numbers. He discovered that the Romans used letters instead of our modern digits. To write numbers, they used specific symbols: I (1), V (5), X (10), L (50), and C (100). If a smaller letter is placed before a larger one, you subtract it (like IV being $5 - 1 = 4$). If a smaller letter is placed after a larger one, you add it (like VI being $5 + 1 = 6$). Max found an old map marked with the year XLV, which he needs your help to decode!

Word bank: Roman numeral · symbol · value · addition · subtraction · century

1. Max found a stone tablet with the Roman numeral 'XIV' carved into it. What is this number in our modern digits? (2 marks)

2. Write the number 42 using Roman numerals. Show your working out. (2 marks)

3. Max has 85 shiny pebbles. How would he write the number 85 in Roman numerals? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the Roman numeral 'IX' represents the number 9. (2 marks)

5. If a historical book was published in the year LXXV, which year is that in our current system? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Roman-style shield and decorate it using your own age written in Roman numerals.



Extension challenge: Max wants to know how to write the number 99 in Roman numerals. Research the rule for subtracting from 100 to find the answer!