

Max's Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning objective: To read, write, and convert Roman numerals up to 1,000 (M) and understand their place in history.

Max the monkey has found an ancient stone tablet while exploring the jungle! Help him decode the history hidden on the tablet by completing the sections below. Use the word bank to help you recall the values of each Roman numeral symbol.

Word bank: I = 1 · V = 5 · X = 10 · L = 50 · C = 100 · D = 500 · M = 1,000 · Addition · Subtraction

1. The Basic Symbols: Explain the rule for when a smaller numeral is placed before a larger numeral (for example, IV or IX). (2 marks)

2. Converting Numbers: Convert these three numbers into Roman numerals: 44, 199, and 562. Show your working out. (3 marks)

3. Reading the Tablet: Max found a date carved on a wall: 'MCCXLV'. Translate this year into our modern number system. (2 marks)

4. Historical Context: Why do you think Roman numerals are still used today on clock faces or at the end of film credits? (2 marks)

5. Max's Maths Puzzle: Write your own Roman numeral challenge for a friend. Write a number between 500 and 1,000 in Roman numerals, then provide the answer below. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try to write the year you were born in Roman numerals. Then, calculate how many years have passed since the year 500 AD (D) in Roman numerals.