

Max's Market Maths Challenge

Learning objective: To subtract whole numbers with more than 4 digits, including using formal written methods (column subtraction).

Read the story below and use your column subtraction skills to help Max calculate the change and the differences in prices. Remember to line up your columns carefully!

Max the monkey is visiting the village market to help his friends buy supplies for their community garden. He has a list of items and a strict budget. At the first stall, a bag of sunflower seeds costs £12.45 and a watering can costs £28.90. Max has a £50.00 note to pay for these items. Later, he sees a pack of wooden plant labels for £7.65. Max needs to calculate how much money he will have left after his shopping trip and compare the prices of the items to ensure he stays within his budget.

Word bank: difference · column subtraction · exchange · remainder · total · decimal point

1. Max spends £12.45 on seeds and £28.90 on a watering can. What is the total cost of these two items? (2 marks)

2. If Max pays for the seeds and the watering can with a £50.00 note, how much change should he receive? (2 marks)

3. The wooden plant labels cost £7.65. How much more expensive is the watering can (£28.90) than the plant labels? (2 marks)

4. Calculate the difference between £45,200 and £12,850 using column subtraction. (2 marks)

5. Max finds a rare seed packet priced at £15,000 (in a very fancy collector's shop). If his original budget was £85,000, how much would he have left after buying this packet? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a basket filled with gardening supplies, with a market stall in the background.



Extension challenge: Max finds a garden shed priced at £1,250.50. If he has £2,000.00 in his savings, write a word problem for a friend to solve that involves subtracting the price of the shed from his savings.