

Max the Monkey's Subtraction Safari

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

Max the Monkey has been collecting fruit for his friends, but he needs help keeping track of his stash! Read the questions carefully and use your column subtraction skills to solve the puzzles. Good luck!

Answer Key: 1. A (£4,215); 2. True; 3. 2,345; 4. B (2,892); 5. False; 6. 3,111; 7. C (5,989); 8. True; 9. 2,777; 10. B (1,456).

Word bank: difference · exchange · column · remainder · total · subtract

1. Max has £8,560. He spends £4,345 on new climbing ropes. How much does he have left? A) £4,215* B) £4,315 C) £4,115 D) £4,225 (1 mark)

2. True or False: When subtracting 5,000 from 12,450, the answer is 7,450. (1 mark)

3. Calculate 6,789 - 4,444. (1 mark)

4. Subtract 3,456 from 6,348. A) 2,792 B) 2,892* C) 2,992 D) 2,882 (1 mark)

5. True or False: In the calculation 8,000 - 2,500, you do not need to exchange across the columns. (1 mark)

6. What is the difference between 9,876 and 6,765? (1 mark)

7. Max finds £9,999 in the jungle. He gives away £4,010. How much is left? A) £5,889 B) £5,979 C) £5,989* D) £6,089 (1 mark)

8. True or False: The 'difference' is another word for the result of a subtraction sum. (1 mark)

9. Calculate 5,555 - 2,778. (1 mark)

10. If Max has £5,000 and pays a fine of £3,544, how much remains? A) £1,556 B) £1,456* C) £1,356 D) £1,446 (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey sitting under a baobab tree, holding a pile of gold coins and a notepad showing a long subtraction sum.



Extension challenge: Max has a budget of £10,000 for his jungle party. He spends £3,450 on fruit, £1,200 on decorations, and £850 on music. How much money does he have left? Show your working out using column subtraction.