

Max's Market Challenge: Making Wise Choices

Learning objective: To understand the importance of budgeting, prioritising needs versus wants, and the value of money.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how Max manages his savings to achieve his goals.

Max the monkey was determined to buy a new telescope for his stargazing friend, Nova. He had saved £20.00 from doing odd jobs in the jungle. At the market, Max felt the temptation to spend his money on colorful juggling balls for £5.00 or a delicious jar of honey for £4.00. However, Max knew that his primary goal was the telescope, which cost £18.50. He sat down and carefully calculated his budget. He realized that if he bought the treats, he would not have enough left for the equipment Nova needed. Max decided to put his savings towards the telescope instead of the temporary fun of juggling balls. By choosing to wait, Max ensured he could purchase the gift that would bring long-term joy to his friend. He learned that money is a limited resource and that managing it requires making difficult choices between what we want right now and what is truly important for our long-term goals.

Word bank: budget · prioritise · savings · expenditure · necessity · temptation

1. How much money had Max saved, and what was the final cost of the telescope he wanted to buy? (2 marks)

2. Identify two items Max considered buying at the market that were not the telescope. (2 marks)

3. Why did Max decide not to buy the juggling balls and the honey? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'money is a limited resource' imply about how we should spend our pocket money? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Max's decision to sacrifice his treats for the telescope? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market, showing him looking at his piggy bank and the items he is choosing between.



Extension challenge: Imagine you have £50.00 to spend on a class project. Create a budget table listing three 'needs' and three 'wants'. Explain why you prioritised your 'needs' over your 'wants' and justify how this helps your project succeed.