

Max the Monkey's Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning objective: To read, write, and convert Roman numerals to 1,000 (M) and recognise years written in Roman numerals.

Read each question carefully. Show your working out where necessary. Max the Monkey has provided a word bank to help you with your calculations.

Max the Monkey is visiting a local museum to study history. He notices that all the exhibit dates are written in Roman numerals. He needs your help to decode the signs so he can organise his notes correctly.

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

1. Max sees a statue dated 'XCV'. Convert this Roman numeral into our standard Arabic number system. (2 marks)

2. Write the number 449 as a Roman numeral. Explain your method for breaking down the hundreds, tens, and units. (3 marks)

3. Max finds two coins. One is marked 'LXXV' and the other is marked 'XXV'. If he adds them together, what is the total in Roman numerals? (3 marks)

4. Compare these two numbers using <, > or =. Show your reasoning: DCCL and 750. (3 marks)

5. A scroll in the museum is dated 'MMXXIV'. What year is this in our current calendar? (2 marks)

6. Max says: 'If I have the number 900, I write it as DCCCC.' Is Max correct? Explain why or why not, using the rules of Roman numerals. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are a historian writing a label for an artefact from the year 888. Write a short paragraph explaining the steps you would take to convert 888 into Roman numerals, then write the final date. Ensure you mention how you handle the hundreds, the tens, and the units separately. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a museum exhibit sign with the current year (2024) written in Roman numerals at the top, surrounded by ancient patterns.



Extension challenge: Total: /25