

Max's Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning objective: To read, write, and understand Roman numerals up to 1000 (M) and recognise years written in Roman numerals.

Max the monkey has found an ancient stone tablet in the forest! Help him decode the symbols to solve these maths puzzles. Remember: I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500, M=1000.

Max is looking at a series of carvings. He knows that if a smaller numeral appears before a larger one, you subtract it (like IV = 4). If a smaller numeral appears after a larger one, you add it (like VI = 6). Max has found these numbers: XC (90), CL (150), and DXX (520). He needs to record these in our modern number system to help Ellie the elephant document the history of the forest.

Word bank: Numeral · Symbol · Value · Subtract · Addition · Ancient

1. Max sees the Roman numeral 'LXXV' carved into a tree. What is this number in our decimal system? (2 marks)

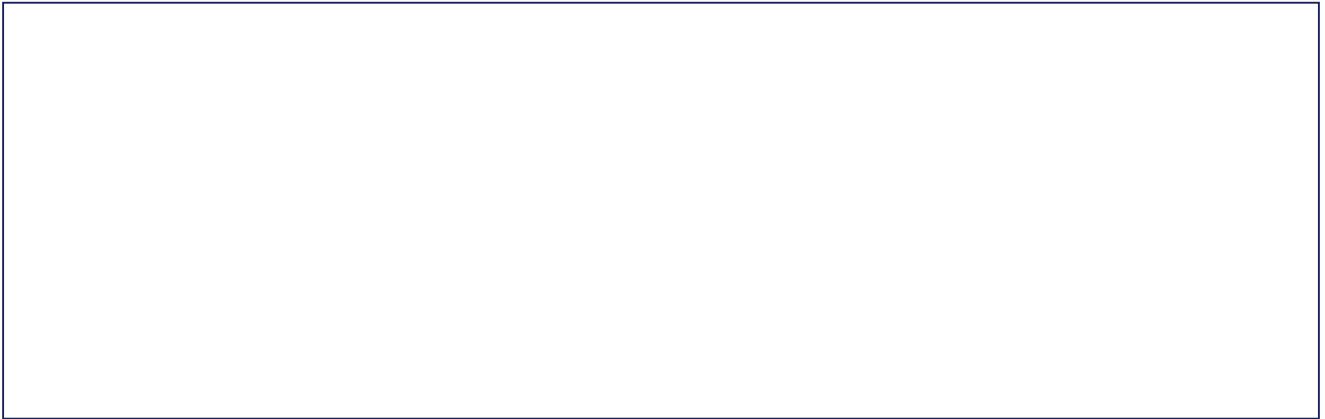
2. Write the number 84 using Roman numerals. Show your working out. (2 marks)

3. If an ancient pot is labelled 'CCXL', how many items are inside? (2 marks)

4. Compare these two numbers using <, > or = symbols: CD versus DC. (2 marks)

5. Max finds a date carved in stone: MMXV. What year is this? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a stone tablet and invent your own symbol for the number 5,000, then show how you would write the number 5,005 using your new symbol and standard Roman numerals.



Extension challenge: Max has 500 gold coins (D). He spends 150 (CL) on supplies. Write his remaining total in Roman numerals and explain your calculation.