

## Max's Roman Numeral Challenge

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

Max the monkey has been studying ancient history and found these puzzles in his jungle notebook. Use your knowledge of Roman numerals to solve his 10-question challenge!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.False, 3.LXXV, 4.A, 5.True, 6.D, 7.True, 8.CM, 9.B, 10.MXX. Explanation: Roman numerals use symbols where I before V makes 4 (IV). Larger values are added, but if a smaller symbol precedes a larger one, it is subtracted.

*Word bank: I=1 · V=5 · X=10 · L=50 · C=100 · D=500 · M=1000 · Subtractive Principle*

1. 1. What is the value of the Roman numeral 'C'? A) 10, B) 50, C) 100\*, D) 500 (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The Roman numeral for 4 is IIII. (1 mark)

3. 3. Write the number 75 as a Roman numeral. (1 mark)

4. 4. Which symbol represents 500? A) D\*, B) M, C) C, D) L (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: In Roman numerals, you can place 'I' before 'V' to represent 4. (1 mark)

6. 6. Convert 400 into Roman numerals. A) CCCC, B) L D, C) D-C, D) CD\* (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: The symbol 'M' represents 1,000. (1 mark)

8. 8. If you have 900, how would you write it using Roman numerals? (1 mark)

9. 9. Which is the correct order from smallest to largest value? A) X, V, I, B) I, V, X\*, C) V, I, X, D) X, I, V (1 mark)

10. 10. Write the number 1,020 in Roman numerals. (1 mark)

**Draw:** Draw a Roman-style stone monument in the jungle with the year 'MMXXIV' carved into the top of it.



*Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the Romans did not use a symbol for zero. 2. Compare and contrast our current decimal system with the Roman numeral system; which is more efficient for long division and why? 3. Justify why the Romans used a 'subtractive principle' (e.g., IV instead of IIII). 4. If Max found a coin dated 'DCCCL', what year would that be? 5. What might happen to our modern maths calculations if we had to use Roman numerals instead of Arabic numerals for everything? 6. Design your own symbol for a number larger than 1,000 and justify its shape based on its value.*