

Year 5 Mathematics: Mastering Subtraction

Learning objective: To solve problems involving subtraction of whole numbers, decimals, and money with more than four digits, including formal written methods.

Read each question carefully. Show your working out clearly, as marks are awarded for your method. Use formal written column subtraction where appropriate.

Max the monkey is helping his friends manage their savings for the BookFlik Community Library. He uses his sharp maths skills to calculate the difference between their collected funds and the cost of new equipment.

Word bank: difference · exchange · placeholder · decimal point · column subtraction · value · calculation

1. Calculate the difference between 45,672 and 18,945. (2 marks)

2. Max has £85.50 in the charity tin. He spends £32.75 on new bookmarks. How much money remains in the tin? (2 marks)

3. Find the missing number in this calculation: $70,000 - ? = 43,628$. (2 marks)

4. Pip the caterpillar is reading a book with 12,500 words. He has read 8,764 words. How many words does he have left to read to finish the book? (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is essential to align the decimal points vertically when subtracting money amounts like £12.50 and £4.75. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the process of subtracting 5,000 from 12,345 versus subtracting 5.00 from 12.345. Justify your answer by showing your working for both. (4 marks)

7. Nova the owl is tracking star distances. Star A is 98,402 light-years away. Star B is 45,987 light-years away. A scientist claims the difference is exactly 52,415 light-years. Is the scientist correct? Use a written method to prove your answer and explain any exchanges made. (5 marks)

8. What might happen if you forget to exchange when performing a column subtraction where the bottom digit is larger than the top digit? Provide a specific example of an error this would cause. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of the number 1,000 as a block, and show how you would 'exchange' one block of 1,000 into ten blocks of 100 to help with a subtraction problem.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Max the monkey. Write a short guide for a younger student explaining the 'Rule of Exchange' in subtraction. Use clear, encouraging language and include one complex example of your own invention. Total: /25