

Mastering Subtraction: Max's Mathematical Challenges

Learning objective: To develop fluency, precision, and reasoning skills in subtracting large numbers and decimals, meeting the Year 5 UK National Curriculum requirements.

Read each flashcard carefully. Use the column method or mental strategies to solve the calculations. For the reasoning questions, provide a clear explanation for your mathematical choices.

What is the difference between 8,452 and 3,291?

5,161

Max has £50.00. He spends £12.75 on a new sketchbook and £8.40 on art supplies. How much change does he have left?

£28.85

Calculate $15,000 - 6,782$.

8,218

Explain why it is important to align the decimal point when subtracting amounts of money.

It ensures that digits of the same place value (tenths, hundredths, units) are subtracted correctly.

Subtract 4.5 from 12.2.

7.7

If the answer to a subtraction is 450, and the amount subtracted was 250, what was the starting number? Show your method.

700 (using the inverse operation: $450 + 250 = 700$).

Compare and contrast: How is subtracting 1,000 from 5,678 different from subtracting 1.0 from 5,678?

Subtracting 1,000 changes the thousands digit; subtracting 1.0 changes the units digit.

Justify your answer: Is $9,999 - 5,001$ closer to 4,000 or 5,000?

5,000, because the exact answer is 4,998, which is only 2 away from 5,000.

What might happen if you forget to regroup (borrow) during a column subtraction calculation?

The result would be incorrect because you would be subtracting from the wrong place value.

Calculate the difference between £100.00 and £45.67.

£54.33

Estimate the answer to $8,902 - 2,105$ by rounding to the nearest thousand.

$9,000 - 2,000 = 7,000$.

Create your own subtraction word problem involving a price of £15.50 and solve it.

[Example: If I have £15.50 and buy a book for £6.20, I have £9.30 remaining.]