

Max's Magnificent Market Subtraction Challenge

Learning objective: To solve multi-step subtraction problems involving large numbers and decimals (money) using formal written methods.

Read each problem carefully. Use your preferred formal written method (column subtraction) to find the difference. Ensure you align your decimal points correctly when calculating with money.

Max the monkey is visiting the village market to help his friends manage their budgets. He needs your expertise to solve these complex financial puzzles.

Word bank: difference · column subtraction · regrouping · decimal point · exchange · remainder · value

1. The village bakery has 4,500 loaves of bread. By the end of the day, they have sold 2,876 loaves. How many loaves remain unsold? Show your working out. (2 marks)

2. Zara the zebra bought a set of artist paints for £24.50 and a canvas for £12.75. If she paid with a £50.00 note, how much change should she receive? (3 marks)

3. Compare the difference between $8,002 - 3,456$ and $8,000 - 3,458$. Explain why the answers are the same. (3 marks)

4. A local farm harvested 9,105 kilograms of apples. They sent 3,467 kilograms to the school and 2,890 kilograms to the community centre. How many kilograms of apples does the farm have left? (3 marks)

5. Max says: 'If I subtract 1,999 from 5,000, I can just subtract 2,000 and then add 1 back to my answer.' Justify why this strategy works. (2 marks)

6. What might happen if you forget to place a zero as a placeholder when performing column subtraction with numbers like $5,004 - 2,345$? Explain the impact on the final result. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene at the village market where Max the monkey is using an abacus to help Zara the zebra calculate her shopping total.



Extension challenge: Create your own 'Market Mystery' word problem that requires a three-step subtraction process. Swap with a partner to see if they can solve it using an efficient written method.