

Max's Magnificent Subtraction Station

Master the Minus: Solve the Puzzle, Find the Difference!

- The 'Difference' is the answer found when you subtract one number from another. Always align your digits by their place value (thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones).
- When the digit on the top is smaller than the digit on the bottom, you must 'exchange' from the column to the left. This turns a 10 into a group of smaller units.
- Always start subtracting from the right-hand side (the ones column) and work your way across to the left.
- If you are subtracting money, such as £15.50 - £7.25, remember to line up your decimal points perfectly to keep your pounds and pence in the correct columns.
- Zero is a placeholder! If you have a zero in your calculation, you may need to exchange across multiple columns to get the value you need.

Did you know? Did you know? Subtraction is the inverse of addition! Max the monkey loves to use this to check his work. If he calculates $5,000 - 1,250 = 3,750$, he checks it by adding $3,750 + 1,250$ to see if he gets back to the original 5,000!

Key vocabulary: Difference · Decrease · Exchange · Column Subtraction · Place Value · Remainder