

Max's Mathematical Market Challenge

Learning objective: To solve multi-step word problems involving four operations, including decimal currency and measures.

Read each problem carefully. Use Max the monkey's method: identify the key information, choose your operation, and show your working out. Ensure your final answers include the correct units (£, kg, or cm).

Max the monkey is helping the woodland animals organise their annual community market. He needs your help to manage the stalls and ensure everyone gets a fair deal.

Word bank: calculate · operation · remainder · decimal · estimate · total · difference · product

1. Bea the honeybee sells jars of wildflower honey for £3.45 each. If a customer buys 6 jars and pays with a £25 note, how much change should Max give them? Show your working. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant is buying ribbon for her history display. She needs 12.5 metres of ribbon. The shop sells it in 2-metre lengths for £1.20 per strip. How much will it cost Ellie to buy enough ribbon, and how much will she have left over? (3 marks)

3. Pip the caterpillar is stacking books. He has a pile of 8 books, each 3.2cm thick. If he adds a wooden base that is 15mm thick, what is the total height of the stack in centimetres? (2 marks)

4. Zara the zebra is selling hand-painted canvases. She sells a small canvas for £8.50 and a large canvas for £14.25. If she sells 4 small canvases and 3 large ones, what is the total amount of money she has collected? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If Max has £50 to spend on supplies and he needs to buy 7 packs of colouring pencils at £6.49 each, does he have enough money? Explain your reasoning using an estimate. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a busy market stall scene run by Max the monkey, including prices on signs written in pounds and pence.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are opening your own stall at the market. Create a multi-step word problem for a friend that involves at least two different mathematical operations (e.g., multiplication and subtraction) and uses a price involving pence. Then, write the mark scheme to show how to solve it.