

Max's Mental Math Challenge Log

Learning objective: To practice and explain mental calculation strategies including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using efficient methods.

Help Max the monkey solve his daily puzzles! Choose a mental math challenge, write down the calculation, and explain the strategy you used (such as partitioning, rounding, or using known facts) to reach your answer.

Word bank: partitioning · rounding · compensation · inverse operation · factors · multiples · estimate · strategy

1. The Addition Challenge: Write a calculation involving a 4-digit number and a 3-digit number. Explain the strategy you used to add them mentally. (2 marks)

2. The Subtraction Challenge: Start with £50.00. Max buys items costing £12.50 and £8.75. How much change does he have? Show your mental steps. (3 marks)

3. The Multiplication Challenge: Choose a 2-digit number to multiply by 6. Show how you partition the number to make the mental multiplication easier. (2 marks)

4. The Division Challenge: Max has 144 acorns to share equally between 12 squirrels. What is the calculation and how did you arrive at your answer? (2 marks)

5. The Estimation Check: Look at your answers above. How can you use rounding to check if your answers are sensible and accurate? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge a friend to solve your calculations without using a written method. Can they find a faster way to reach the answer than you did?