

Max's Mental Math Challenge

Learning objective: To use mental strategies to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems efficiently.

Help Max the monkey solve these math puzzles! Use mental strategies like partitioning, doubling, or rounding to work out the answers. Show your working out clearly.

Max the monkey loves to organize his collection of rainforest fruit. He needs to calculate his supplies quickly to share them fairly with his friends. Remember: you can use your knowledge of times tables and place value to solve these problems without needing a written method.

Word bank: partitioning · strategy · mental · sum · difference · product · quotient

1. Max has 450 bananas and he finds another 275. How many bananas does he have in total? Use the partitioning method to show your thinking. (2 marks)

2. There are 8 trees in the grove. Each tree has 12 coconuts. How many coconuts are there altogether? Use your knowledge of multiplication facts. (2 marks)

3. Max had £15.00. He spent £6.75 on a new bag of nuts. How much money does he have left? (2 marks)

4. If Max shares 96 mangoes equally into 8 baskets, how many mangoes will be in each basket? (2 marks)

5. Calculate the difference between 1,200 and 450 using a mental jump strategy on a number line. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting under a tree with his piles of fruit, labelling each pile with the number of items he has collected.



Extension challenge: Max finds a mystery number. If he multiplies it by 5, then subtracts 12, the answer is 48. What is the mystery number? Explain how you worked it out backwards.