Max’s Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning objective: To identify, read, and write Roman numerals up to 100 (C) and understand the relationship between our number system and Roman numerals.

Max the monkey has found an ancient stone tablet in the forest! Help him decode the symbols to solve these maths puzzles. Read each question carefully and write your answers clearly.

Max has discovered that Roman numerals use letters to represent numbers. He knows that I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, and C = 100. He needs to use these to work out the dates on old coins and the prices of items in the local market.

Word bank: I · V · X · L · C · Symbol · Numeral · Value · Addition · Subtraction

1. Max sees the Roman numeral 'XV' on a stone. What number does this represent in our number system? (1 mark)

2. Write the following numbers as Roman numerals: a) 8, b) 20, c) 40. (3 marks)

3. Max finds a coin marked with 'XXXV'. If he finds another coin marked 'X', what is the total value in Roman numerals? Show your working out. (4 marks)

4. Explain why the Roman numeral 'IV' is not written as 'IIII'. Use your knowledge of how Roman numerals work. (4 marks)

5. Max sees a price tag on an old book that reads 'LXXV pence'. Write this number in digits and explain how you calculated it using the values L, X, and V. (4 marks)

6. Compare the numbers 60 and 90. Write them as Roman numerals and explain which one is larger using the symbols. (4 marks)

7. Max wants to organise his collection. He has 95 items. Write a short explanation of how he should represent 95 in Roman numerals, ensuring he uses the correct subtraction rule. Why is it not 'LXXXXV'? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a Roman shield and decorate it with your favourite number written in Roman numerals.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Can you write your age and the current year in Roman numerals at the bottom of your page?