Max’s Market Challenge: A Mental Math Adventure

Learning objective: To use mental strategies to add and subtract amounts of money and solve simple word problems involving dollars and cents.

Max the monkey is helping his friends at the village market. Each friend wants to buy a treat, but they need to work out the costs in their heads. Use your mental math skills to help them find the correct total or change. Write your working out clearly for each step.

Word bank: Total · Difference · Pounds · Pence · Calculate · Strategy

1. Pip the caterpillar wants to buy a bookmark for £2.50 and a sticker for £1.20. How much does he spend in total? (2 marks)

2. Nova the owl has a £5.00 note. She buys a star chart for £3.20. How much change should she receive? (2 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant buys two packs of postcards. Each pack costs £1.40. What is the total cost of both packs? (2 marks)

4. Zara the zebra has £4.80. She spends £2.30 on paints. How much money does she have left? (2 marks)

5. Finn the dolphin sees a bag of shells for £3.60 and a map for £2.10. If he has a £10 note, will he have enough money to buy both? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing at a market stall filled with colorful fruit and school supplies. Show a price tag on one of the items that shows a price in dollars and cents (e.g., £1.75).

Extension challenge: Create your own 'Market Challenge' question for a friend. Choose two items to buy, give them a starting amount of money, and ask your friend to calculate the change.