Max’s Mental Math Market Challenge

Learning objective: To improve mental arithmetic fluency by applying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division strategies to real-world currency problems.

Max the Monkey is helping at the local community market. He needs to calculate the costs and change for his customers using only mental math. Read each customer's scenario below and perform the calculation in your head. Write down your final answer and the 'mental strategy' you used (e.g., partitioning, rounding, or doubling).

Word bank: Partitioning · Rounding · Doubling · Inverse Operation · Number Bonds

1. A customer buys 4 punnets of strawberries at £2.25 each. How much is the total cost? Show your answer and the strategy used. (2 marks)

2. Another customer buys a book for £8.70 and pays with a £10 note. How much change should they receive? Show your answer and the strategy used. (2 marks)

3. Max has 48 apples to share equally between 6 crates. How many apples go in each crate? Show your answer and the strategy used. (2 marks)

4. A jar of local honey costs £3.45. If a shopper buys 2 jars, what is the total? Show your answer and the strategy used. (2 marks)

5. The market stall has £50.00 in the float. After selling items worth £12.50, how much money is in the stall? Show your answer and the strategy used. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey standing behind a colorful market stall displaying fruit and books, with price tags clearly labelled in dollars and cents.

Extension challenge: Create your own mental math problem involving at least three items from the market and ask a partner to solve it using a different strategy than the one you used.