

Max the Monkey's Market Maths

Learning objective: To identify and understand words containing the 'sh', 'ch', 'th', and 'ph' digraphs within a narrative context.

Read the story below carefully. Look out for words that use digraphs—two letters that make one sound. Answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Max the monkey was a very busy shopper. Today, he visited the local market to buy supplies for his jungle friends. He walked past a shiny shop where he saw a beautiful, silver dolphin statue. 'That would look lovely in the library,' Max thought with a grin. He checked his phone to see his shopping list. He needed to buy a thick piece of rope and some fresh, crunchy snacks. He found a stall selling cheap fruit and started to chatter happily with the merchant. As he walked home, he spotted a prickly purple thistle growing by the path. Max carefully stepped around it, made sure his bag was shut tight, and headed back to the trees to share his findings.

Word bank: shop · cheap · thistle · dolphin · chatter · shimmer · thick · phone

1. Find two words in the text that use the 'sh' digraph. Write them below. (2 marks)

2. Why did Max look at his phone while he was at the market? (2 marks)

3. Which object did Max see that reminded him of a creature Finn the dolphin might know? (2 marks)

4. Find one word in the text that contains the 'ch' digraph. How does the sound of 'ch' change if you change the 'c' to an 's'? (3 marks)

5. Why did Max have to step carefully around the thistle? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market. Can you include the shiny dolphin statue and the purple thistle he saw?



Extension challenge: Choose three words from the text that contain digraphs. Write three original sentences of your own, using one of these words in each sentence.