

Max's Magnificent Maths Shop: A Vocabulary Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and use adjectives and synonyms to enhance descriptive writing.

Read the story below about Max the monkey's shop. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions. Make sure to use your best handwriting and check your spelling.

Max the monkey has opened a shop to sell his favourite maths puzzles. His shop is a bustling little hut in the jungle. Inside, he has placed an enormous stack of wooden blocks on a sturdy shelf. He keeps his delicate, glass counting marbles in a velvet box because they are very fragile. Max is a meticulous shopkeeper; he keeps his records perfectly tidy. He has painted the front door a vibrant shade of yellow, which contrasts with the faded brown logs of the walls. Everything in the shop looks dazzling when the sun shines through the window.

Word bank: dazzling · enormous · sturdy · faded · vibrant · fragile · meticulous

1. Find a word in the passage that is an antonym (opposite) of 'strong' or 'tough'. (1 mark)

2. Max is described as a 'meticulous' shopkeeper. Using the context of the story, what does this word tell us about how Max works? (2 marks)

3. Choose a word from the word bank that means 'very bright and full of colour'. Use it in a new sentence about a butterfly. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think Max describes his marbles as 'fragile'? What might happen if he was not careful with them? (2 marks)

5. If Max wanted to change the 'faded' sign on his shop to something new, suggest an adjective that could replace 'faded' to describe a brand new, shiny sign. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing in his shop. Include the 'enormous' stack of blocks and the 'vibrant' yellow door mentioned in the story.



Extension challenge: Pick two words from the word bank and write a short poem (4 lines) about Max's shop, making sure to include your chosen adjectives.