

Max's Market Maths: Subtraction Challenges

Learning objective: To subtract numbers with up to 4 digits using formal written methods (column subtraction) and solve money-based problems.

Help Max the monkey work out the total change needed at the forest market. Use column subtraction to show your working out for each question.

Max the monkey is helping out at the local fruit stall. He loves solving maths puzzles while he serves the forest animals. Today, the stall has a supply of 2,450 fresh bananas. A group of gorillas bought 875 bananas for their breakfast. Later, a family of squirrels purchased some nuts for £15.50, but they paid with a £20.00 note. Max needs to calculate how many bananas are left and how much change the squirrels should receive.

Word bank: difference · column subtraction · exchange · total · change · remainder

1. How many bananas are left at the stall after the gorillas bought 875 of them? Show your column subtraction. (2 marks)

2. The squirrels paid with a £20.00 note for items costing £15.50. Calculate the change Max needs to give them. (2 marks)

3. A box of honey jars costs £12.75. If a bear pays with a £20.00 note, how much change is given? (2 marks)

4. Calculate the difference between 4,000 and 1,342. (2 marks)

5. A merchant had 5,200 apples. He sold 2,460 of them. How many apples does he have remaining? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing behind a market stall with a sign showing the prices of his fruit, and draw a subtraction sum floating in a speech bubble above his head.



Extension challenge: Max has 9,000 items in his inventory. If he sells 3,456 items on Monday and 2,789 items on Tuesday, how many items does he have left in total? Explain your method.