

Max's Market Stall Subtraction Challenge

Learning objective: To subtract numbers with up to four digits using formal written methods, including exchanging where necessary.

Max the monkey is helping at the local market. Use your column subtraction skills to help Max calculate how much stock he has left after his busy morning. Remember to line up your columns carefully and show your working out, especially when exchanging!

Max has a fruit stall at the market. At the start of the day, he had 2,540 shiny red apples. By lunchtime, he had sold 1,285 apples to the hungry villagers. Later in the afternoon, he started with 4,320 bunches of bananas and sold 1,564 bunches. Max needs to know exactly how much fruit he has left to make sure he has enough for tomorrow.

Word bank: difference · column subtraction · exchange · total · remaining · value

1. How many red apples does Max have remaining after selling 1,285 from his original stock of 2,540? (2 marks)

2. Calculate the difference between the starting number of banana bunches (4,320) and the number sold (1,564). (2 marks)

3. Max finds a crate containing 1,000 pears. If he sells 437 pears, how many are left in the crate? (2 marks)

4. A customer buys a bag of oranges for £3.50. If they pay with a £10.00 note, how much change should Max give them? (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is important to check your answer by adding your result back to the amount you subtracted. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing by his market stall with his remaining fruit, and label the piles with the subtraction sums you solved.



Extension challenge: Max has 5,000 pieces of fruit in total. If he sells 2,748 pieces in the morning and 1,359 pieces in the afternoon, how many pieces of fruit does he have left at the end of the day? Show your method.