

Max's Market Maths: Subtraction Challenge

Learning objective: To subtract numbers with up to four digits using formal written methods (column subtraction) including exchanging.

Read the story of Max the monkey's shopping trip. Use your column subtraction skills to help him calculate the change. Remember to line up your columns carefully, starting with the ones column, and show any exchanging clearly.

Max the monkey is visiting the local market to buy supplies for his friends. He starts the day with £50.00 in his piggy bank. First, he buys a basket of fresh mangoes for £12.45. Next, he finds a beautiful hand-woven scarf for Zara for £18.60. Finally, he buys a set of colourful paints for £9.25. Max needs to work out how much money he has left to make sure he has enough for a celebratory snack.

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

1. Max starts with £50.00 and spends £12.45 on mangoes. How much money does he have left after buying the mangoes? (2 marks)

2. After buying the mangoes (£12.45), Max spends £18.60 on a scarf. What is the total amount he has spent so far? (2 marks)

3. How much money does Max have remaining after buying the mangoes (£12.45) and the scarf (£18.60)? (2 marks)

4. If Max buys the paints for £9.25, what is the final amount of money he has left from his original £50.00? (3 marks)

5. Explain why it is important to line up the decimal point when subtracting money. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing at the market stall with his basket of fruit and his new scarf. Label the items with their prices.



Extension challenge: Max finds a rare book that costs £14.85. If he had spent his money in a different order, would he still have the same amount of money left at the end? Prove your answer using a calculation.