Roman Numerals

- Read and recognise Roman numerals

Roman Numerals

The Romans used some of the letters from the **Latin alphabet** (I, V, X, L, C, D and M) to represent numbers:

Letter	I	V	X	L	C	D	M
Value	1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

Example

- 5 = V, so 4 = IV (one less than 5) and 6 = VI (one more than 5)
- 10 = X, so 9 = IX (one less than 10) and 11 = XI (one more than 10)
- X can be placed before L to make 40 (XL) and before C to make 90 (XC).
- C can be placed before D to make 400 (CD) and before M to make 900 (CM).

Key Point

By placing letters before or after other letters, the Roman system could make any number.

1	I	11	XI
2	II	12	XII
3	III	13	XIII
4	IV	14	XIV
5	V	15	XV
6	VI	16	XVI
7	VII	17	XVII
8	VIII	18	XVIII
9	IX	19	XIX
10	X	20	XX

Recording Years in Roman Numerals

The Romans were one of the first civilisations to use calendars, so they recorded the years using their number system.

Example

2015 would be recorded as MMXV:

1000	1000	10	5
M	M	X	V

Key Point

The Romans did not have a **symbol** for zero – they just left it out!

Quick Test

1. Write these Roman numerals as numbers:
   a) XXIII b) XLVI c) CCXCIII
2. What years do these Roman numerals represent?
   a) MDCLXVI b) MLXVI c) MCMXIV

Key Words

- Latin alphabet
- Symbol

Practice Questions

Challenge 1 PS Problem-solving questions

1 Write this number in figures:
forty-six thousand two hundred and twenty-eight _____ (1 mark)

2 Order these numbers from smallest to largest:
701 107 170 710 1071 _____ (1 mark)

3 Counting back in 5s, what are the next three terms in this sequence?
14 9 4 _____ _____ _____ (3 marks)

4 Round 3426 to the nearest:
a) 10 _____ b) 100 _____ (2 marks)

Challenge 2

1 Which number is closest to 500?
548 515 489 5050 450 _____ (1 mark)

PS 2 Here are three digit cards. Write **all** the **three-digit** numbers **greater than 600** that can be made using these cards:

5 6 8

_____ _____ _____ _____ (4 marks)

3 What year do these numerals represent? MCMXLV _____ (1 mark)

Challenge 3

1 What are the next three terms of this sequence?
17 $25\frac{1}{2}$ 34 _____ _____ _____ (3 marks)

2 Anne Boleyn was executed in 1536.
Write this date in Roman numerals. _____ (1 mark)

PS 3 Look at this sequence: 7 12 17 …
Does 96 appear in this sequence? How do you know?
_____ (1 mark)

4 Round 345 637 to the nearest:
a) 10 _____ b) 100 _____
c) 10 000 _____ d) 100 000 _____ (4 marks)