Introduction to Roman Numerals and First Activities


When adding numerals to make a number, the extra digit is placed to the right of the largest number e.g.

13

| $10+3$ | XIII |
| :--- | :--- |

To stop numerals getting too big, only three of the same value are allowed in a row. To help with this we can show a number by 'subtracting' a numeral e.g.

| 9 | 1 less than 10 | IX |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

The letter being removed goes before the larger number. There is only ever one letter subtracted.

Work through these further examples to help you understand more fully;

| Number | Sum | Roman Numeral |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | $5+3$ | VIII |
| 19 | $10+9$ | XIX |
| 43 | $40+3$ | XLIII |
| 90 | $100-10$ | XC |

1. Can you write the numbers from 1-10 to help you with the questions to follow?
$\square$

$\square$

$\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$ $10=\square$
2. Try these...

| Number | Sum | Roman Numeral |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| a. 26 |  |  |
| b. 17 |  |  |
| c. 29 |  |  |
| d. 30 |  |  |

3. Now try these...
a. $15=\square$
b. $21=\square$
c. $26=\square$
d. $33=\square$
e. $35=$

f. $44=$ $\square$
g. $49=$ $\square$
h. $50=$ $\qquad$
4. A little bit harder...
a. $70=$

d. $89=$

b. $80=$

e. $90=$ $\square$
c. $83=$ $\square$
f. $100=$ $\square$
5. Final challenges...

Can you convert today's date into Roman numerals? $\qquad$ 1 1 Can you convert the year (e.g. 2015) into Roman numerals?


Introduction to Roman Numerals and First Activities: Answers

| question | answer |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. |  |  |
| 1 | I |  |
| 2 | II |  |
| 3 | III |  |
| 4 | IV |  |
| 5 | V |  |
| 6 | VI |  |
| 7 | VII |  |
| 8 | VIII |  |
| 9 | IX |  |
| 10 | X |  |
| 2. |  |  |
|  | sum | Roman numeral |
| a | $20+6$ | XXVI |
| b | $10+7$ | XVII |
| c | $10+10+9$ | XXIX |
| d | $10+10+10$ | XXX |
| 3. |  |  |
| a | XV |  |
| b | XXI |  |
| c | XXVI |  |
| d | XXXIII |  |
| e | XXXV |  |
| $f$ | XLIV |  |
| g | XLIX |  |
| h | L |  |
| 4. |  |  |
| a | LXX |  |
| b | LXXX |  |
| c | LXXXIII |  |
| d | LXXXIX |  |
| e | XC |  |
| $f$ | C |  |

