Roman numerals to 1,000

Notes and guidance

In Year 4, children learned about Roman numerals to 100. In this small step, they explore Roman numerals to 1,000, and the symbols D (500) and M (1,000) are introduced.

Children explore further the similarities and differences between the Roman number system and our number system, learning that the Roman system does not have a zero and does not use placeholders.

Children use their knowledge of M and D to recognise years using Roman numerals. Asking children to write the date in Roman numerals is one way to reinforce the concept daily.

Things to look out for

- Children may mix up which letter stands for which number.

- Children may add the individual values together instead of interpreting the values based on their position, for example interpreting CD as 600 instead of 400

- It is often more difficult to convert numbers that require large strings of Roman numerals.

- Children may think that numbers such as 990 can be written as XM instead of CMXC.

Key questions

- What patterns can you see in the Roman number system?

- What rules do we use when converting numbers to Roman numerals?

- What letters are used in the Roman number system? What does each letter represent?

- How do you know what order to write the letters when using Roman numerals?

- What is the same and what is different about representing the number "five hundred and three" in the Roman number system and in our number system?

Possible sentence stems

- The letter _____ represents the number _____

- I know _____ is greater than _____ because …
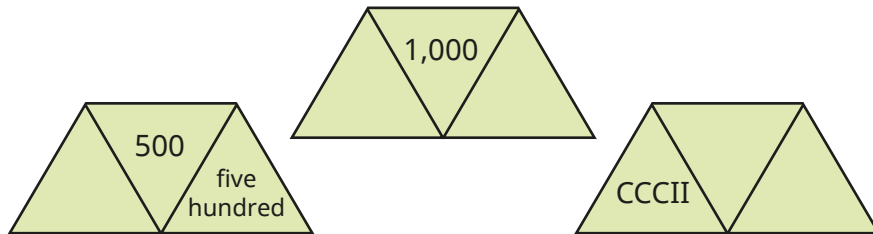
National Curriculum links

- Read Roman numerals to 1,000 (M) and recognise years written in Roman numerals

Roman numerals to 1,000

Key learning

- Each diagram should show a number in Roman numerals, digits and words.

  Complete the diagrams.

  1,000

  500
  five hundred

  CCCII

- Match the Roman numerals to the numbers.

DC	460
CD	950
CCCXX	400
DXC	590
CML	600
CDLX	320

- Here is a date written in Roman numerals.

  XXI / IX / MMXV

  What day of the month is shown?

  What month is shown?

  What year is shown?

- Here are the end credits of two films.

  The Roman numerals show the year the films were made.

  © WRM Films
  MCMXL

  © White Rose Studios
  MMIX

  In what year was the older film made?

  In what year was the more recent film made?

  How long was there between the making of the two films?

  Give your answer in Roman numerals.

Roman numerals to 1,000

White Rose MATHS

Reasoning and problem solving

Work out CCCL + CL.

Give your answer in Roman numerals.

Write five calculations, using Roman numerals, that give the same answer.
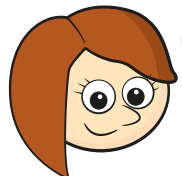
Compare answers with a partner.

D

multiple possible answers, e.g.

CD + C

M ÷ II

C + CC + CC

C × V

XL − X = L

Do you agree with Rosie?

Explain your answer.

No

Is the statement true or false?

> In Roman numerals,
> 400 is CD,
> so 800 is CDCD.

False

The numbers in the sequence are increasing by CXX each time.

☐ , ☐ , DCCXC , ☐ , ☐

Work out the missing numbers in the sequence.

DL, DCLXX,

CMX, MXXX