Roman Numerals

Roman numerals have survived for thousands of years and are still used today.

Roman numerals can be found on clocks, watches, sun dials, film dates, book chapters and numbering, as bullet points and as the titles of Kings, Queens or Popes.

Roman Numerals use 7 different letters to indicate numbers. 0s (zeros) are not used. Bigger numbers are made by combining the letters in different ways.

The letters used are:

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

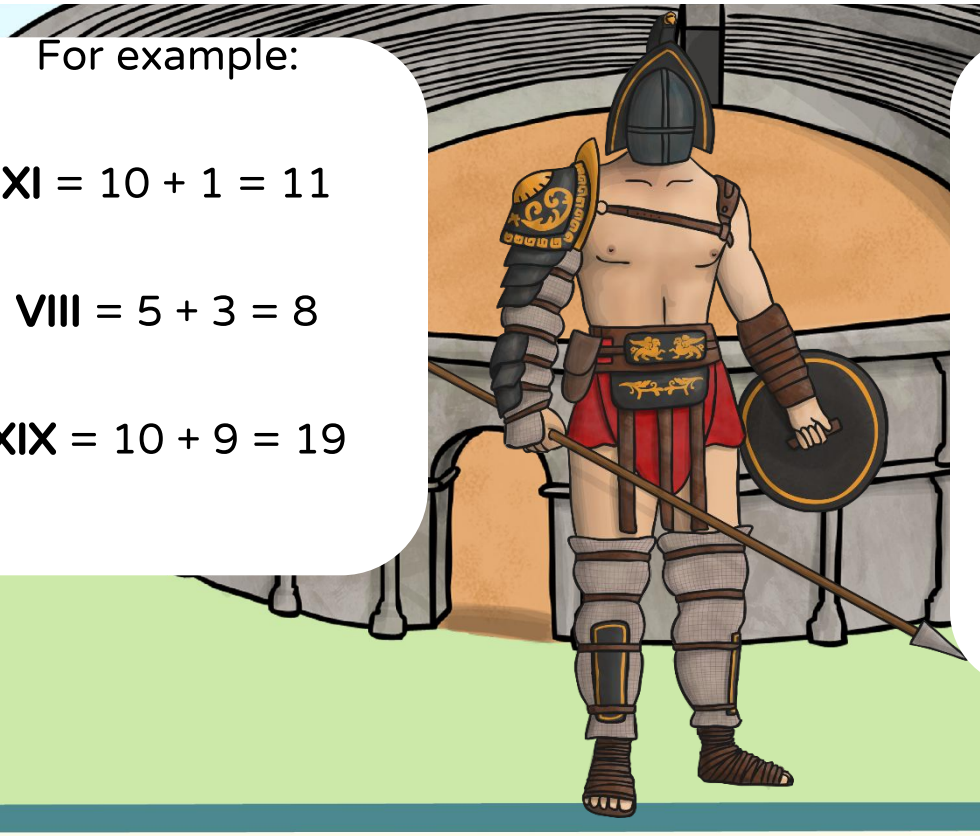
If the larger number symbol is followed by a smaller number symbol you must add the two together. You also add if the two symbols are the same.

For example:

XI = 10 + 1 = 11

VIII = 5 + 3 = 8

XIX = 10 + 9 = 19



What are these numbers?

MC	1100
DC	600
LV	55

If a smaller number symbol is followed by a larger number symbol you must subtract the small number from the large one.

For example:

9 = 10 – 1 = **IX**

40 = 50 – 10 = **XL**

CD (500 – 100 = 400)

What are these numbers?

IV	4
XC	90
XL	40

Don't forget: Sometimes numbers are formed by addition but other numbers are formed by subtraction.

Can you make these numbers?

86	LXXXVI
49	XLIX
120	CXX
1900	MCM
2000	MM

Now you are a Roman numeral converter, try this task!

Write the following numbers:

Your age

Your birthday

Today's date

Christmas this year

New year's day next year