Maya the Knight: Subtraction Quest

Grade 1 math knights

Students will subtract within 20 using strategies such as counting back, making ten, and using known facts.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Maya has 6 magic swords. She gives 2 away. How many swords does Maya have left? 6 − 2 = ___

2. Maya finds 9 rare gems in the stone wall. She drops 3 gems. How many gems does Maya still hold? 9 − 3 = ___

3. Maya spots 12 hidden treasures inside the tower chest. She takes out 5 treasures. How many hidden treasures stay inside? Show your working. 12 − 5 = ___

4. The royal vault holds 14 unique golden coins. Maya spends 6 coins to open the gate. How many coins does Maya have now? Show your working. 14 − 6 = ___

5. True or False? Maya counts 11 rare shields on the castle wall. A dragon breaks 4 shields. Maya says 8 shields are left. Is Maya right? Circle: TRUE or FALSE. Show your working.

6. Maya carries 15 special knight shields up the tower. The wind blows 7 shields off the wall. How many special shields does Maya have left? Show every step. 15 − 7 = ___

7. Maya finds 18 rare treasure coins in the hidden vault. She gives 9 coins to her knight friends. Fill in the blanks to show two steps. Step 1: 18 − ___ = 10. Step 2: 10 − ___ = 9. Maya has ___ coins left.

8. Maya reaches the throne room at last! She sees 20 unique jewels on the royal crown. She counts 13 jewels already claimed by other knights. How many unique jewels can Maya claim for her victory? Show all your working. Then write one sentence: 'Maya wins ___ jewels and completes her quest!'

Answer Key: Maya the Knight: Subtraction Quest

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After Q6, pause and ask students: 'Maya had 15 shields but lost some — did anyone get a different answer than 8?' This surfaces subtraction errors specific to this worksheet's numbers and opens peer explanation.

1. Maya has 6 magic swords. She gives 2 away. How many swords does Maya have left? 6 − 2 = ___

Answer: Q1: 6 magic swords – 2 given away = 4 magic swords. Maya has 4 magic swords left.

2. Maya finds 9 rare gems in the stone wall. She drops 3 gems. How many gems does Maya still hold? 9 − 3 = ___

Answer: Q2: 9 rare gems – 3 dropped = 6 rare gems. Maya still holds 6 rare gems.

3. Maya spots 12 hidden treasures inside the tower chest. She takes out 5 treasures. How many hidden treasures stay inside? Show your working. 12 − 5 = ___

Answer: Q3: 12 hidden treasures – 5 taken out = 7 hidden treasures. 12 − 5 = 7. Seven hidden treasures stay inside the chest.

4. The royal vault holds 14 unique golden coins. Maya spends 6 coins to open the gate. How many coins does Maya have now? Show your working. 14 − 6 = ___

Answer: Q4: 14 unique golden coins – 6 spent at the gate = 8 coins. 14 − 6 = 8. Maya has 8 coins left.

5. True or False? Maya counts 11 rare shields on the castle wall. A dragon breaks 4 shields. Maya says 8 shields are left. Is Maya right? Circle: TRUE or FALSE. Show your working.

Answer: Q5: 11 rare shields – 4 broken by dragon = 7 shields. 11 − 4 = 7. Maya said 8 — that is WRONG. The answer is FALSE. 7 shields are left, not 8.

6. Maya carries 15 special knight shields up the tower. The wind blows 7 shields off the wall. How many special shields does Maya have left? Show every step. 15 − 7 = ___

Answer: Q6: Start at 15. Count back 7. 15 − 7 = 8. OR: 15 − 5 = 10, then 10 − 2 = 8. Maya has 8 special shields left.

7. Maya finds 18 rare treasure coins in the hidden vault. She gives 9 coins to her knight friends. Fill in the blanks to show two steps. Step 1: 18 − ___ = 10. Step 2: 10 − ___ = 9. Maya has ___ coins left.

Answer: Q7: Step 1: 18 − 8 = 10. Step 2: 10 − 1 = 9. Maya has 9 rare treasure coins left. Check: 18 − 9 = 9. ✓

8. Maya reaches the throne room at last! She sees 20 unique jewels on the royal crown. She counts 13 jewels already claimed by other knights. How many unique jewels can Maya claim for her victory? Show all your working. Then write one sentence: 'Maya wins ___ jewels and completes her quest!'

Answer: Q8: 20 unique jewels on the crown – 13 already claimed = Maya's jewels. 20 − 10 = 10, then 10 − 3 = 7. OR count back from 20: 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 13 steps = 7. Answer: 20 − 13 = 7. Maya wins 7 jewels and completes her quest! Maya has finished her knight adventure with 7 unique jewels.