Maya's Big Trip: Subtraction Adventure

Grade 1 math travel

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Maya has 6 special objects. She drops 2. How many does Maya have left? Show your work.

2. Maya finds 9 unique items on the trail. She gives away 3. How many unique items stay with Maya?

3. Maya packs 14 rare finds. She uses up 5 on the road. How many rare finds does Maya have now? Show your work.

4. Maya spots 12 hidden treasures in a cave. The tide washes away 4. How many hidden treasures can Maya still grab?

5. Fill in the blank. Maya had 16 special objects. She shed 7 on the mountain path. Maya now has ___ special objects.

6. True or false? Maya found 15 rare finds. She used up 8. Maya has 7 rare finds left. Write TRUE or FALSE. Then show your working to prove it.

7. Maya starts with 18 unique items. First she drops 6 in the river. Then she trades 5 more at camp. How many unique items does Maya have left? Show every step.

8. Maya reaches the final map spot! She started the trip with 20 hidden treasures. She used up 4 crossing the river. She shed 6 climbing the hill. She spent 3 to open the treasure door. How many hidden treasures does Maya have when she opens the door? Show every step. Write a sentence about what Maya found inside.

Answer Key: Maya's Big Trip: Subtraction Adventure

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

Before starting, read the story intro aloud together. Ask students to act out Maya 'dropping' or 'using up' items from her travel bag — this diegetic movement helps anchor subtraction as a real action, not an abstract operation. Reference Q6 specifically: ask students how Maya felt finding only 7 rare finds left after losing 8.

1. Maya has 6 special objects. She drops 2. How many does Maya have left? Show your work.

Answer: Q1: 6 - 2 = 4. Maya has 4 special objects left.

2. Maya finds 9 unique items on the trail. She gives away 3. How many unique items stay with Maya?

Answer: Q2: 9 - 3 = 6. Maya keeps 6 unique items.

3. Maya packs 14 rare finds. She uses up 5 on the road. How many rare finds does Maya have now? Show your work.

Answer: Q3: 14 - 5 = 9. Maya has 9 rare finds left.

4. Maya spots 12 hidden treasures in a cave. The tide washes away 4. How many hidden treasures can Maya still grab?

Answer: Q4: 12 - 4 = 8. Maya can still grab 8 hidden treasures.

5. Fill in the blank. Maya had 16 special objects. She shed 7 on the mountain path. Maya now has ___ special objects.

Answer: Q5: 16 - 7 = 9. Maya now has 9 special objects.

6. True or false? Maya found 15 rare finds. She used up 8. Maya has 7 rare finds left. Write TRUE or FALSE. Then show your working to prove it.

Answer: Q6: 15 - 8 = 7. Maya has 7 rare finds left. The statement is TRUE.

7. Maya starts with 18 unique items. First she drops 6 in the river. Then she trades 5 more at camp. How many unique items does Maya have left? Show every step.

Answer: Q7: Step 1 — Maya drops 6: 18 - 6 = 12. Step 2 — Maya trades 5: 12 - 5 = 7. Maya has 7 unique items left.

8. Maya reaches the final map spot! She started the trip with 20 hidden treasures. She used up 4 crossing the river. She shed 6 climbing the hill. She spent 3 to open the treasure door. How many hidden treasures does Maya have when she opens the door? Show every step. Write a sentence about what Maya found inside.

Answer: Q8: Step 1 — river crossing: 20 - 4 = 16. Step 2 — climbing the hill: 16 - 6 = 10. Step 3 — opening the door: 10 - 3 = 7. Maya has 7 hidden treasures when she opens the door. Example sentence: Maya opened the door and found a chest full of gold! Maya completed her big trip!