

Maya the Wizard: Subtraction Quest

Grade 1

math

wizards

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Maya has 7 magic gems. She drops 3 gems. How many gems does Maya have now? Show your working.

2. Maya finds 9 rare coins. She uses 5 coins. How many coins are left? Show your working.

3. Maya puts 12 spell scrolls in her bag. She uses 4 scrolls. Fill in the blank: $12 - 4 = \underline{\quad}$. Show your working.

4. Maya finds a hidden treasure chest. It holds 15 gold stars. Maya takes out 7 stars. How many stars stay in the chest? Show your working.

5. True or False: Maya has 14 unique spell stones. She sheds 6 stones. Maya has 9 stones left. Circle True or False. Show your working.

6. Maya opens a rare find: a magic lamp. The lamp holds 18 wish sparks. Maya uses 9 wish sparks to light her path. How many wish sparks are left? Show your working.

7. Maya finds a special object: a wizard crown. The crown has 20 jewels. First, 8 jewels drop off. Then 4 more jewels drop off. How many jewels does the crown have now? Show your working.

8. Maya reaches the wizard tower! A unique item — the Great Spell Book — has 20 blank pages. Maya fills 7 pages with spells she learned today. Then she fills 6 more pages with spells from the hidden treasure map. How many blank pages are left in the Great Spell Book? Show your working. What did Maya finish? Write one sentence.

Answer Key: Maya the Wizard: Subtraction Quest

GRADE 1 | TEACHER & PARENT USE ONLY

Before Q1, ask students: 'If Maya has 9 magic gems and drops 4, how many stay?' This primes the counting-back strategy students will use across all 8 questions on this worksheet.

1. Maya has 7 magic gems. She drops 3 gems. How many gems does Maya have now? Show your working.
Answer: Q1: 7 gems – 3 gems = ? Count back: 7... 6, 5, 4. Maya has 4 magic gems.
2. Maya finds 9 rare coins. She uses 5 coins. How many coins are left? Show your working.
Answer: Q2: 9 coins – 5 coins = ? Count back: 9... 8, 7, 6, 5, 4. Maya has 4 rare coins left.
3. Maya puts 12 spell scrolls in her bag. She uses 4 scrolls. Fill in the blank: $12 - 4 = \underline{\quad}$. Show your working.
Answer: Q3: $12 - 4 = ?$ Start at 12, count back 4: 12... 11, 10, 9, 8. Answer: $12 - 4 = 8$ spell scrolls left.
4. Maya finds a hidden treasure chest. It holds 15 gold stars. Maya takes out 7 stars. How many stars stay in the chest? Show your working.
Answer: Q4: 15 gold stars – 7 gold stars = ? Make ten: $15 - 5 = 10$, then $10 - 2 = 8$. Maya leaves 8 gold stars in the chest.
5. True or False: Maya has 14 unique spell stones. She sheds 6 stones. Maya has 9 stones left. Circle True or False. Show your working.
Answer: Q5: 14 spell stones – 6 spell stones = ? Make ten: $14 - 4 = 10$, then $10 - 2 = 8$. Maya has 8 stones, NOT 9. Answer: FALSE.
6. Maya opens a rare find: a magic lamp. The lamp holds 18 wish sparks. Maya uses 9 wish sparks to light her path. How many wish sparks are left? Show your working.
Answer: Q6: 18 wish sparks – 9 wish sparks = ? Known fact: $9 + 9 = 18$, so $18 - 9 = 9$. Maya has 9 wish sparks left in the lamp.
7. Maya finds a special object: a wizard crown. The crown has 20 jewels. First, 8 jewels drop off. Then 4 more jewels drop off. How many jewels does the crown have now? Show your working.
Answer: Q7: Step 1: 20 jewels – 8 jewels = 12 jewels. Make ten: $20 - 10 = 10$, then $10 + 2 = 12$. Step 2: 12 jewels – 4 jewels = 8 jewels. Count back: 12... 11, 10, 9, 8. Maya's crown has 8 jewels left.
8. Maya reaches the wizard tower! A unique item — the Great Spell Book — has 20 blank pages. Maya fills 7 pages with spells she learned today. Then she fills 6 more pages with spells from the hidden treasure map. How many blank pages are left in the Great Spell Book? Show your working. What did Maya finish? Write one sentence.
Answer: Q8: Step 1: 20 pages – 7 pages = 13 pages. Make ten: $20 - 10 = 10$, then $10 + 3 = 13$. Step 2: 13 pages – 6 pages = 7 pages. Count back: 13... 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7. Maya has 7 blank pages left. Sentence example: Maya finished her quest and filled the Great Spell Book!

