

How did each letter/number/symbol come to be?

Roman Numeral	How did it come to be?
I	
V	
X	
L	
C	
D	
M	

Go on a Roman Numeral scavenger hunt.

Find 10 examples of Roman Numerals in use today. Document your findings--write, draw, or take a picture. If you need ideas, check out Mr. Lewis's Roman Numeral--Modern Uses [<http://www.web40571.clarahost.co.uk/roman/use.htm>].



WEBQUEST: ROMAN NUMERALS

II. How to Calculate Roman Numerals

The Romans used letters to represent a given quantity, but just how did they combine the letters and in what order? Are there any rules to their use? In this section you will explore several websites that will discuss how to calculate Roman Numerals, use Roman Numeral/Arabic Numeral converter, and translate numbers from Roman Numerals to Arabic and vice versa. Open up your web browser and use the links on the **II. How to Calculate Roman Numerals** [http://www.edenpr.org/prview/roman_num/calc.html] webpage to complete the activities and answer the questions.

Questions:

What are the two main rules for reading and writing Roman Numerals?

Are there other rules? [Hint: the answer is yes--your job is to try to explain them.]

Transcribe these Arabic numbers into Roman Numerals.

Arabic Number	25	43	59	12
Roman Numeral				

Arabic Number	83	3998	17	424
Roman Numeral				

Arabic Number	7	99	3169	10
Roman Numeral				

Transcribe the Roman Numerals into Arabic numbers.

Roman Numeral	XXIV	XL	CCCLXX	VIII
Arabic Number				

Roman Numeral	MDCCLXXII	XC	CCXLIII	MMDCCCLXXV
Arabic Number				

Roman Numeral	LIV	DCII	CCLXXVIII	IX
Arabic Number				



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III. Adding Roman Numerals

Adding Roman Numerals can be difficult. For one thing, you can't really tell how big a number is by just looking at it. For example, take MM. It's pretty small, just two letters. Each letter, however, equals 1,000 making the number 2,000. This example also illustrates the of a lack place value system in Roman Numerals. In Arabic numbers, ones are written with only one number, tens with two, etc. It can get confusing when you try to add Roman Numerals. Point your web browser to section **III. Addition** [http://www.edenpr.org/prview/roman_num/addition.html] and use the links to complete the activities and answer the questions.

Questions:

What are some strategies that you could use to solve addition problems with Roman Numerals?

Is it easier, harder, or about the same as adding Arabic numbers? Please explain your answer. [Try out some problems before answering this question.]

Complete these addition problems:

$VIII + IV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$XL + IV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$CC + LIX = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$XC + VIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$V + VII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$III + M = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XX + L = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$DXX + DXXVIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$MMMDCCLXX + IX = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$III + VII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$L + XXVIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$IX + DCXL = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XIII + XVII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$VI + MM = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$M + XXXI = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$III + XIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XIX + DCCXXXII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$II + XLIX = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Make an addition quiz for your friends to see if they can add Roman Numerals too!



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IV. Subtracting Roman Numerals

Just like addition, subtracting Roman Numerals can be difficult. Generally, it is for the same reasons: the lack of a place value system and the adding and subtracting just to figure out how much the Roman Numeral represents. With a little practice you are sure to become a pro. Point your web browser to section **IV. Subtraction** [http://www.edenpr.org/prview/roman_num/subtraction.html] and use the links to complete the activities and answer the questions.

Questions:

What are some strategies that you could use to solve subtraction problems with Roman Numerals? [There is no link for this one--use your noggin!]

Is it easier, harder, or about the same as subtracting Arabic numbers? Please explain your answer. [There is no link for this one either--try out some problems first.]

Complete these subtraction problems:

$VIII - IV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$XL - IV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XXXIII - XIX = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$L - VIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$IX - V = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$M - C = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XX - XIV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$DXX - XXII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$MMMDCCL - XXIV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$VI - II = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$L - XXVIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$CCC - CLII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XIII - IV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$MDCCCLXXVIII - XLVI = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$M - XXXI = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$LXI - XI = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
$XIX - VIII = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$CVIII - LXXXV = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Make a subtraction quiz for your friends to try!



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IV. Other Activities

As you can see, using Roman Numerals has its challenges, but it's also pretty neat! It's like using a secret code that only some of you know. There are just a few other questions for you to think about and answer, as well as some fun things for you to try! Point your web browser to section **V. Other Activities** [http://www.edenpr.org/prview/roman_num/other_act.html] and use the links to complete the activities and answer the questions.

Questions:

**I don't know if you have noticed yet, but in Roman Numerals there's no ZERO!
Why didn't they use Zero?**

**Why don't we use Roman Numerals much today? Please explain your answer.
[There is no link for this one--use your noggin!]**

Play this Roman board game--you need two people to play, so bring a friend!

The goal is to maneuver your three counters into a straight line. This means you have to have one in the middle, since the outside of the circle is round and does not count.

To start, each player takes turns placing counters, one at a time, at any position on the board. Only one counter may occupy any one position at a time. When all the counters are placed, take turns moving a counter to an open, adjacent position. You can move in a straight line or along a curved line. You may not jump any counters. First one to move your pieces into a straight line is the winner.

