

Name _____ Date _____

Roman Numerals

The Romans used letters (I, V, X, etc.) to count. Nowadays, we usually use Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3...). Roman numerals are still important, although they are less common. We can see Roman numerals on ancient monuments and graves. They can also be found on films, books, and many modern buildings. These are the seven symbols used:

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

Add the letters to make the numbers.

- 55 = 50 (L) + 5 (V); 55 = LV
- 60 = 50 (L) + 10 (X); 60 = LX
- 120 = 100 (C) + 10 (X) + 10 (X); 120 = CXX
- 525 = 500 (D) + 10 (X) + 10 (X) + 5 (V); 525 = DXXV
- 560 = 500 (D) + 50 (L) + 10 (X); 560 = DLX

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If a symbol precedes another, it is subtracted from that symbol (as IV, the 4 precedes the V, so it means V – 1, or 5 – 1... so IV means 4). A symbol can only precede the next two symbols in order (I to V or X; X to L or C; and C to D or M).

The same symbol cannot be used more than three times in a row. For instance:

- 1 – I; 2 – II; 3 – III; 4 – IV
- 10 – X; 20 – XX; 30 – XXX; 40 – XL
- 100 – C; 200 – CC; 300 – CCC; 400 – CD.

When you want to write numbers like 10000 or 120000, just add a horizontal line above the number you would like to multiply by a thousand, for example:

- $\overline{\text{X}}$ = 10000
- $\overline{\text{CX}}$ = 120000
- $\overline{\text{XII}}$ = 6000
- $\overline{\text{L}}$ = 50000