Roman Numerals Learning Poster

I	1		XI	11
II	2		XII	12
III	3		XIII	13
IV	4		XIV	14
V	5		XV	15
VI	6		XVI	16
VII	7		XVII	17
VIII	8		XVIII	18
IX	9		XIX	19
X	10		XX	20

L	C	D	M
50	100	500	1000

The system of number symbols created by the Romans had the merit of expressing all numbers from 1 to 1,000,000 with a total of seven symbols: I for 1, V for 5, X for 10, L for 50, C for 100, D for 500, and M for 1000. Roman numerals are read from left to right. The symbols representing the largest quantities are placed at the left; immediately to the right of those are the symbols representing the next largest quantities, and so on. The symbols are usually added together. For example, LX = 60, and MMCIII = 2103. When a numeral is smaller than the numeral to the right, however, the numeral on the left should be subtracted from the numeral on the right. For instance, XIV = 14 and IX = 9. Roman numerals are still used today, more than 2000 years after their introduction. The Roman system's one drawback, however, is that it is not suitable for rapid written calculations.

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Teaching Tips:
Introducing and Teaching:
Begin by telling student that our system of numbers is called the Arabic numeral system.

Tell students that more than 2000 years ago, the Romans created a numeral system in which we call the numbers Roman numerals.

Either show student the table above or write on paper or the board, one by one, the Roman numerals and their Arabic equivalents. Point out little tips to help students remember the numerals (how intuitive it is that I is 1 and II is 2, etc. After you introduce 3, introduce 5 (V) then go back and show student that 4 is just IV. Tell student that when a number is written to the left, it is subtracted from the number on the write. Continue on until you get to 14, doing the same thing, etc.

For younger students, you may want to stop at 20 or 30. (or up to 49)

Teaching Tips For Older Students or to continue after 20/30/49:

Introducing and Teaching:

If you are continuing on from a previous lesson or year, review the Roman numerals., now introduce L, C, D, and M to student.

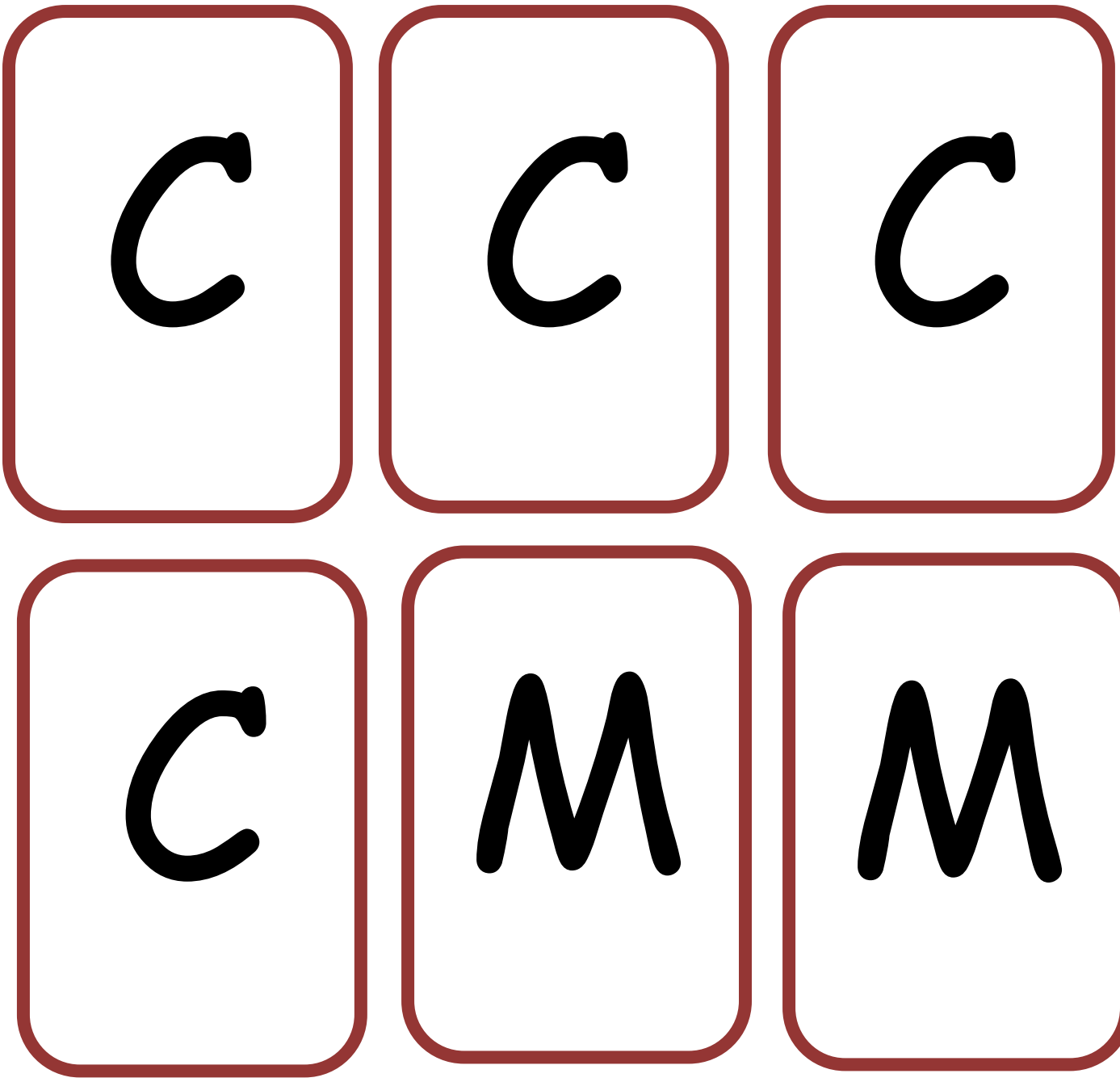
Show student how to build larger numbers using L, C, D, and M. If you need a refresher or help teaching these, see the side bar up at the top of this page.

Have student use the activity cards and do the suggested activities for practice with Roman numerals.

Roman Numerals Activity Cards

Use this card set to have student build numbers from our Arabic numerals.
Example: To make 1995, student uses the following cards: MDCCCCLXXXXV.
To make the activity more interesting, have student find numbers in a variety of places in their environment (books, labels, etc) or use number cards or you can dictate numbers to student to have them build.

Also, give child a number in Roman numerals (lay it out in front of them) and have them write the correct Arabic number.
Example: you show cards CCXXI, child writes 221.



X X

D V L

I

I

I

X

X

X