In Latin, all numbers were made up of just 7 different **letters**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **I** | one | **L** | fifty |
| **V** | five | **C** | hundred |
| **X** | ten | **D** | five hundred |
| | | **M** | thousand |

There are three **rules** to reading roman numerals

**Rule 1:** You can't write more than three of the same number in a row

**Rule 2:** If you see a smaller number AFTER a larger one, you add them together

**Rule 3:** If you see a smaller number BEFORE a larger one, you have to subtract it from the larger number
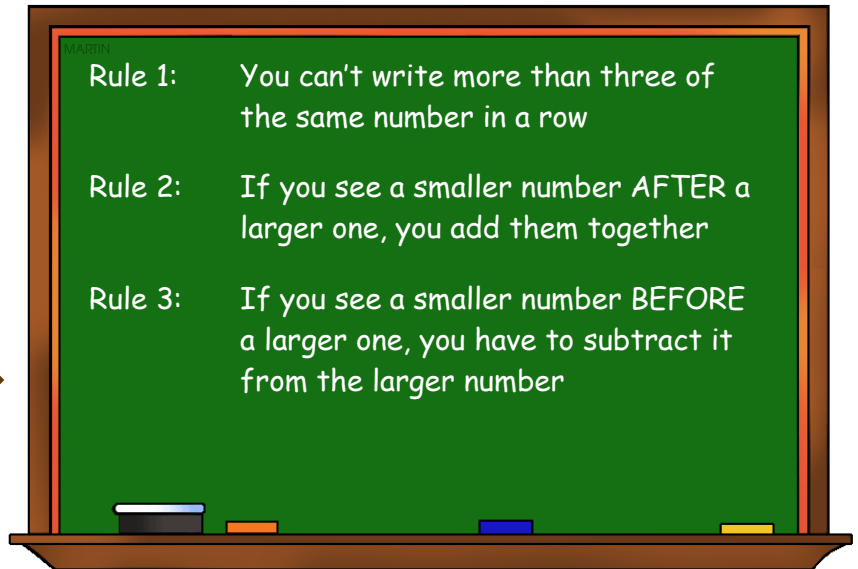
Let's apply those rules:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| II | is the number 2 | |
| III | is the number 3 | (Rule 1) |
| IV | is number 4 | (Rule 2) |
| VI | is the number 6 | (Rule 3) |

You've probably seen these numbers before when learning history. Think! Edward III, Henry VIII and George IV … See?

> **I'm going shopping at the market outside the Fort. How much do I need to buy?**

XII EGGS
II BREAD
IV APPLES
XLIX TILES

....... EGGS
...... BREAD
...... APPLES
TILES
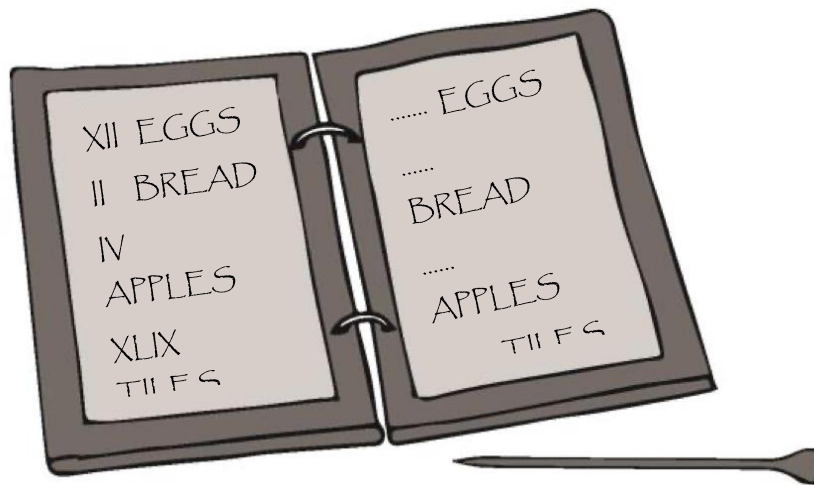
Romans used wax tablets like this to write - if you want to try making one of your own (with an adults help!), click HERE

Think you have all your numbers sorted?  Have a go at these bigger numbers and see if you're right.

The most successful invasion of Scotland by the Romans was in LXXX      ……………………………

Building of the Antonine Wall began in CXLII      ……………………………

The Romans leave the Antonine Wall for the last time in CCXI      ……………………………

Roman Britain comes to an end CDX      ……………………………

Kenneth MacAlpin becomes the first King of Scotland in DCCCXLIII      ……………………………

The last **Viking** battle in Scotland took place in MCCLXIII      ……………………………

Robert the Bruce defeats the English army at the Battle of Bannockburn in MCCCXIV      ……………………………

**How do I say the numbers in Latin?**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | unus/una* | XI | undecim | XXX | triginta |
| II | duo/duae* | XII | duodecim | XL | quadraginta |
| III | tres/tria* | XIII | tredecim | C | centum |
| IV | quattuor | XIV | quattuordecim | CCC | trecenti |
| V | quinque | XV | quindecim | CD | quadringenti |
| VI | sex | XVI | sedecim | M | mille |
| VII | septem | XVII | septendecim | MM | duo milia |
| VIII | octo | XVIII | duodeviginti | | |
| IX | novem | XIX | undeviginti | | |
| X | decem | XX | viginti | | |

*these three numbers have a male/female version

Here are a couple of fun videos – enjoy!
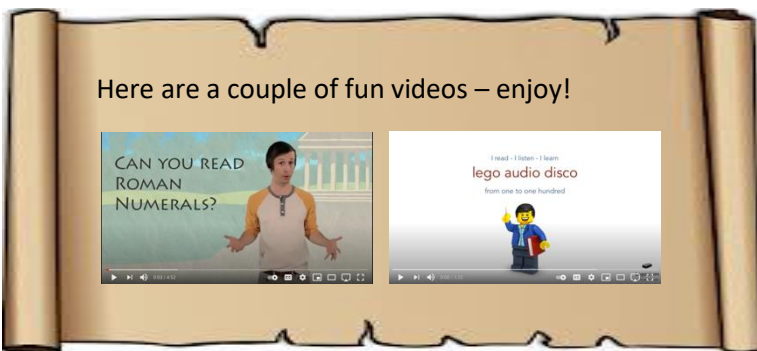
The 'teen' numbers are unusual because you put the lower number first, then the ten, but for every other number from 21 up, you put the tens first.

Like this ….      Duodecim is 12
      Vigintiduo is 22