

Suggested Time Limit: 12 minutes

1 Nearly two thousand years ago there was a brave captain whose name was Julius Caesar. The soldiers he led to battle were very strong, and conquered the people wherever they went. They had no gun or gunpowder then; but they had swords and spears, and, to prevent themselves from being hurt, they had helmets or brazen caps on their heads, with long tufts of horse-hair upon them, by way of ornament, and breast-plates of brass, and on their arms they carried a sort of screen, made of strong leather. One of them carried a little brass figure of an eagle on a long pole, with a scarlet flag flying below, and wherever the eagle was seen, they all followed, and fought so bravely that nothing could long stand against them.

10 When Julius Caesar rode at their head, with his keen, pale hook-nosed face, and the scarlet cloak that the general always wore, they were so proud of him, and so fond of him, that there was nothing they would not do for him.

15 Julius Caesar heard that a little way off there was a country nobody knew anything about, except that the people were very fierce and savage, and that a sort of pearl was found in the shells of mussels which lived in the rivers. He could not bear that there should be any place that his own people, the Romans, did not know and subdue. So he commanded the ships to be prepared, and he and his soldiers embarked, watching the white cliffs on the other side of the sea grow higher and higher as he came nearer and nearer.

20 When he came quite up to them, he found the savages were there in earnest. They were tall men, with long red streaming hair, and such clothes as they had were woollen, checked like plaid; but many had their arms naked, and painted all over in blue patterns. They yelled and brandished their darts, to make Julius Caesar and his Roman soldiers keep away; but he only went on to a place where the shore was not quite so steep, and there commanded his soldiers to land. The savages had run along the shore too, and there was a terrible fight; but at last the man who carried the eagle jumped down into the middle of the natives, calling out to his fellows that they must come after him, or they would lose their eagle. They all came rushing and leaping down, and thus they managed to force back the savages, and make their way to the shore.

30 There was not much worth having when they had made their way there. Though they came again the next year, and forced their way a good deal farther into the country, they saw chiefly bare downs, or heaths, or thick woods. The few houses were little more than piles of stones, and the people were rough and wild, and could do very little. The men hunted wild boars, and wolves and stags, and the women dug the ground, and raised a little corn, which they ground to flour between two stones to make bread; and they spun the wool of their sheep, dyed it with bright colors, and wove it into dresses. They had some strong places in the woods, with trunks of trees, cut down to shut them in from the enemy, with all their flocks and cattle; but Caesar did not get into any of these. He only made the natives give him some of their pearls, and call the Romans their masters, and then he went back to his ships, and none of the set of savages who were alive when he came saw him or his Romans any more.

40 Do you know who these savages were who fought with Julius Caesar? They were called Britons. And the country he came to see? That was our very own island, England, only it was not called so then. And the place where Julius Caesar landed is called Deal, and, if you look at the map where England and France most nearly touch one another, I think you will see the name Deal, and remember it was there Julius Caesar landed, and fought with the Britons.

Continue over the page for some questions ⇨



Comprehension
'Julius Caesar' Continued

1. How is Julius Caesar described in the first paragraph?

- A Very strong
- B He carried a scarlet flag
- C Courageous
- D Very old

2. What are described as having 'long tufts of horse-hair upon them'?

- A Brazen caps
- B Breast-plates
- C Little brass figures
- D Swords and spears

3. How do Julius Caesar's soldiers feel about him?

- A They wouldn't do anything for him
- B They admire him and are very loyal
- C They think he doesn't know anything about the land
- D They are afraid of him

4. Why did Caesar command the ships to be prepared?

- A He had heard the land was full of savages
- B He had heard there were pearls and wanted to be rich
- C He couldn't bear his people not knowing about a country
- D Because the Romans were going to war

5. How did the Romans eventually conquer the savages on the shore?

- A They moved further down the shore
- B They brandished their darts
- C The savages eventually welcomed them
- D The man with the eagle encouraged them to advance

6. Where is Deal?

- A At the very tip of France
- B Where England and France touch
- C The south of England, close to France
- D In thick woodland



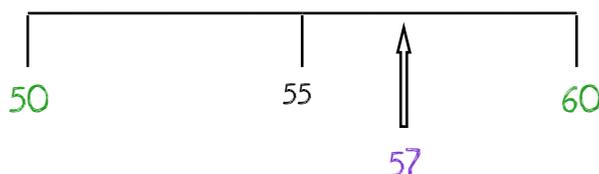
Knowing how to round numbers up and down correctly can be really useful for our mental maths skills.

You've probably come across rounding before, but let's do a quick bit of revision to check you understand it! Read the examples below carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Example 1

Round 57 to the nearest ten.

When we're asked to round a number to the nearest ten, it means we need to work out which multiple of ten our number is closest to.



As we can see above, the two multiples of ten that 57 lies between are 50 and 60. 57 is closer to 60, so our answer is **60**. You can just look at the units to decide whether to round up or down when you're rounding to the nearest 10. If the unit is under 5, round down. If the unit is 5 or more, round up!

Example 2

Round 438 to the nearest hundred.

When we're asked to round a number to the nearest hundred, it means we need to work out which multiple of one hundred our number is closest to.

We can work this out in almost exactly the same way as before. However, this time, we use the tens column to help us decide whether to round up or down.

The two multiples of 100 that 438 lies between are 400 and 500. If there was a 5 in the tens column, we would round the number up. However, the tens column in 438 contains a number less than 5 (3), so we round down to **400**.

Rounding to the nearest thousand works in exactly the same way, except you need to look at the hundreds column to work out whether to round up or down.

Activity



Now it's your turn! Round the following numbers to their nearest ten, hundred and thousand.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Round 869 to the nearest... | 2. Round 6523 to the nearest... | 3. Round 3285 to the nearest... |
| a) 10 = _____ | a) 10 = _____ | a) 10 = _____ |
| b) 100 = _____ | b) 100 = _____ | b) 100 = _____ |
| c) 1000 = _____ | c) 1000 = _____ | c) 1000 = _____ |

Now that you're confident with rounding numbers to their nearest tens, hundreds and thousands, you can use this skill to help you work out the answers to more complicated problems.

We can use rounding to help us to answer questions that would otherwise be tricky to solve in our heads.

Example

Michaela buys 3 pens costing £1.98 each. How much does she spend altogether?

Adding 3 lots of £1.98 together in your head is doable, but it's quite tricky and it would be easy to make a silly mistake. Instead, try rounding the cost to the nearest pound.

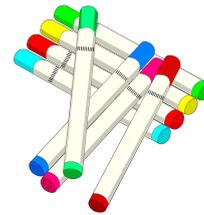
£1.98 is close to £2. If we round £1.98 up to £2, this makes our sum easier to deal with.

$$3 \times £2 = £6.$$

However, remember that each pen actually costs 2p less than £2, so we need to take these pennies off our answer. Because there are 3 pens altogether, we need to take off 6p (3 x 2p).

$$£6 - 6p = \underline{\underline{£5.94}}$$

Simple!



Activity

Answer the following questions using rounding to help you. Don't forget to round the numbers up or down correctly, and then pay attention to whether you are adding or subtracting the extra at the end!

1. Marcus buys 4 sandwiches costing £3.99 each. How much does he spend altogether?

£ _____

2. Packs of jam doughnuts cost £2.03. How much do 5 packs cost?

£ _____

3. Raj buys 2 comics for 98p each, and a hotdog for £2.97. How much do the items cost altogether?

£ _____



English Answers

Comprehension: 'Julius Caesar'

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. C

Maths Answers

Rounding Numbers

1. a) 870 b) 900 c) 1000
2. a) 6520 b) 6500 c) 7000
3. a) 3290 b) 3300 c) 3000

Solving Sums Using Rounding

1. £15.96
2. £10.15
3. £4.93