



## Count Like a Roman

### Learning to read Roman numerals

#### Materials:

- pencil or pen
- worksheet provided

#### Introduction:

Roman numerals were first used around 500 B.C. Perhaps you have seen Roman numerals on the face of some clocks that appear to be covered in letters. The first ten numbers were meant to resemble our hands and fingers when we count with them, as you can see in the drawing.

Because the numerals were getting too long for the Romans to write, they used subtraction to create new numbers for 4 and 9. They placed the Roman numeral for 1 (I) in front of the numeral for 5 (V) to create the numeral for 4 (IV).  $5-1=4$  or  $V-I=IV$ .

In the same way they got the numeral for 9. They placed the Roman numeral for 1 (I) in front of the numeral for 10 (X) to create the numeral for 9 (IX).  $10-1=9$  or  $X-I=IX$ .



#### Procedures:

1. Print a PDF of the worksheet provided.

2. Use the worksheet to figure out the Roman numerals and count like the Romans do.

3. First write out the numbers corresponding to the following numerals:

V=

III=

X=

VII=

IX=



IV=

I=

4. Then try these equations:

V+II=

V+V=

II+III=

II+II=

X-III=

V-IV=

III-II=

VI+III=



