

# FUN WITH ROMAN NUMERALS

DAVID A. ADLER

ILLUSTRATED BY EDWARD MILLER III

## About the Book

*Page IV. Super Bowl XLV. Built in MMVII.* Roman numerals are everywhere: on clocks, in books, and on buildings. But what do Roman numerals mean, and how do you use them?

GRADES  
1-5

## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### Mathematics

**Roman Numerals Game**—Students can work in pairs. Each student can write an Arabic numeral on a sheet of paper and then his/her partner can write the corresponding Roman numeral. The students can take turns creating numbers and continue for 10 to 15 minutes for extended practice. This can also be done in reverse, with the student writing the Roman numeral first and the partner writing the Arabic numeral.

**Roman Numerals Diary**—Students can create their own “Roman Numerals Diary.” They can search for Roman numerals used in various places, such as book page numbers, copyright dates, watches and clocks, ancient coins, sundials, chapters in books, film sequels (e.g., *Rocky III*), credits at the end of TV shows or movies, cornerstones of buildings, crossword puzzle clues, events (e.g., Super Bowl XX), and in other places they may discover on their own. For each entry they should record: 1) the date they found it; 2) where they found it; 3) the Roman numeral; 4) the corresponding Arabic numeral. (Hint: They should number their pages with Roman numerals.) They can add illustrations if they choose to do so.

**Class Birthday Book**—Students can convert their birthdays to Roman numerals—for example, August 20, 1937, would become XX August MCMXXXVII. They can write the “Roman” birthday at the top of a page and the Arabic equivalent at the bottom. In between they can draw a self-portrait and include their name. These can be compiled into a book in chronological order.

**Class Address Book**—Students can convert their home addresses to Roman numerals—for example, 3422 Elm Street would become MMMCDXXII Elm Street. They can write the information on a sheet of paper, showing the Roman and Arabic equivalents, along with an illustration of where they live; and these can be compiled into a book.

**Multiplication Tables**—Students can create their own Roman numerals charts and practice their multiplication tables at the same time by recording the multiplication tables in Roman numerals. For example, the ‘2s Chart’ would show: II, IV, VI, VIII, X, XII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, etc. They can do the same for numbers 3 through 12. They can do this individually or in partners or small groups.

### Art

Students can search *Google Images* for pictures of ancient Rome. Some key words to enter are: Roman soldiers, Roman chariots, Roman costumes, Roman buildings, Roman jewelry, Roman coins, etc. They can compare their findings with the illustrations by Edward Miller III in *Fun with Roman Numerals*.

Students can find books about ancient Rome in their school or public library and compare the illustrations with those in David Adler’s book. They can also search for Roman numerals in the book illustrations.

## Literature

Students can find and read other books by author David A. Adler and discuss what other subjects he has written about. Are most of his books fiction or nonfiction?

Students can search for other books about numerals, number systems, and counting in their school or public library.

## Online Resources

<http://literacy.kent.edu/Minigrants/Cinci/romanchart.htm> • Presents a **Roman numerals chart showing 1 to 100** with examples from 500 to 900.

[www.math.wichita.edu/history/topics/num-sys.html](http://www.math.wichita.edu/history/topics/num-sys.html) • **Information and charts of the Inca, Maya, Egyptian, Greek, and Babylonian** number systems.

<http://mathforum.org/alejandre/numerals.html> • Presents links to **information on many number systems**—from Drexel University School of Education.

<http://www.romannumerals.co.uk/roman-numerals/numerals-history.html> • The **history and use of Roman numerals**. Click on *chart* to see Roman numerals from 1 to 5,000.

<http://42explore.com/number.htm> • Presents a wealth of information and **links to number systems from a variety of cultures throughout history**.

## For Further Reading

*Calculator Riddles* by David A. Adler, illustrated by Cynthia Fisher

*Fraction Fun* by David A. Adler, illustrated by Nancy Tobin

*How Tall, How Short, How Faraway* by David A. Adler, illustrated by Nancy Tobin

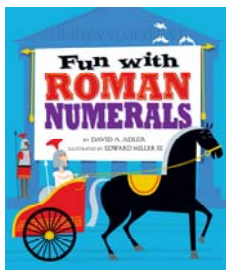
*Of Numbers and Stars: The Story of Hypatia* by D. Anne Love, illustrated by Pam Paparone

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## About the Author and Illustrator

**David A. Adler** is a former math teacher and beloved author of more than a hundred children's books. He enjoys helping kids understand that math can be easy and fun too. Learn more about David at [www.davidaadler.com](http://www.davidaadler.com).

**Edward Miller III** writes a Roman numeral whenever he signs his name. He is an author, illustrator, and designer of many books, including *The Tooth Book: A Guide to Healthy Teeth and Gums* and *The Monster Health Book: A Guide To Eating Healthy, Being Active & Feeling Great For Monsters & Kids!*. Visit him online at [www.edmiller.com](http://www.edmiller.com).



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