Numbers: Their History and Meaning (Dover Books on Mathematics)



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Description:

Much in our daily lives is defined in numerical terms-from the moment we wake in the morning and look at the clock to dialing a phone or paying a bill. But what exactly is a number? When did man begin to count and record numbers? Who made the first calculating machine-and when? At what point did people first think of solving problems by equations? These and many other questions about numbers are answered in this engrossing, clearly written book. Written for general readers by a teacher of mathematics, the jargon-free text traces the evolution of counting systems, examines important milestones, investigates numbers, words, and symbols used around the world, and identifies common roots. The dawn of numerals is also covered, as are fractions, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, arithmetic symbols, the origins of infinite cardinal arithmetic, symbols for the unknown, the status of zero, numbers and religious belief, recreational math, algebra, the use of calculators —from the abacus to the computer —and a host of other topics. This entertaining and authoritative book will not only provide

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Herodotus

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Numbers Graham Flegg, 1983 Extremely readable jargon free book for general readers traces the evolution of counting systems from the primitive techniques of antiquity to computers Text examines the earliest endeavors to count and record numbers initial attempts to solve problems by using equations and origins of infinite cardinal arithmetic Surprisingly exciting A Brief History of Numbers Leo Corry, 2015 This is the story behind the idea of number from the Pythagoreans up until the turn of the 20th century through Greek Islamic European mathematics History of Number Kay Owens, Glen Lean, Patricia Paraide, Charly Muke, 2017-10-24 This unique volume presents an ecocultural and embodied perspective on understanding numbers and their history in indigenous communities The book focuses on research carried out in Papua New Guinea and Oceania and will help educators understand humanity s use of numbers and their development and change The authors focus on indigenous mathematics education in the early years and shine light on the unique processes and number systems of non European styled cultural classrooms This new perspective for mathematics education challenges educators who have not heard about the history of number outside of Western traditions and can help them develop a rich cultural competence in their own practice and a new vision of foundational number concepts such as large numbers groups and systems Featured in this invaluable resource are some data and analyses that chief researcher Glendon Angove Lean collected while living in Papua New Guinea before his death in 1995 Among the topics covered The diversity of counting system cycles where they were established and how they may have developed A detailed exploration of number systems other than base 10 systems including 2 cycle 5 cycle 4 and 6 cycle systems and body part tally systems Research collected from major studies such as Geoff Smith s and Sue Holzknecht s studies of Morobe Province s multiple counting systems Charly Muke s study of counting in the Wahqi Valley in the Jiwaka Province and Patricia Paraide s documentation of the number and measurement knowledge of her Tolai community The implications of viewing early numeracy in the light of this book s research and ways of catering to diversity in mathematics education In this volume Kay Owens draws on recent research from diverse fields such as linguistics and archaeology to present their exegesis on the history of number reaching back ten thousand years ago Researchers and educators interested in the history of mathematical sciences will find History of Number Evidence from Papua New Guinea and Oceania to be an invaluable resource The Mathematical Traveler Calvin C. Clawson, 2013-11-11 As he persuasively argues the mathematical concepts that arose and flourished in the ancient world enabled the creation of architectural masterpieces as well as the establishment of vast trade networks Companion **Encyclopedia of the History and Philosophy of the Mathematical Sciences** Ivor Grattan-Guiness, 2004-11-11 First published in 2004 This book examines the history and philosophy of the mathematical sciences in a cultural context tracing their evolution from ancient times up to the twentieth century Includes 176 articles contributed by authors of 18 nationalities With a chronological table of main events in the development of mathematics Has a fully integrated index of people events

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The History of Philosophy from Thales to Comte George Henry Lewes, 1880 The History of Herodotus Herodotus, 1859 Explorations in the History of Machines and Mechanisms Teun Koetsier, Marco Ceccarelli, 2012-04-05 This book contains the proceedings of HMM2012 the 4th International Symposium on Historical Developments in the field of Mechanism and Machine Science MMS These proceedings cover recent research concerning all aspects of the development of MMS from antiquity until the present and its historiography machines mechanisms kinematics dynamics concepts and theories design methods collections of methods collections of models institutions and biographies The Origin and Significance of Zero ,2024-03-11 Winner of the 2024 Outstanding Academic Titles award in Choice a publishing unit of the Association of College religion philosophy arts and mathematics and conversely inhibited by the absence of or aversion to such a concept of Nothingness in the West But not all scholars agree Join the debate The History of Mathematical Proof in Ancient **Traditions** Karine Chemla, 2012-07-05 This radical profoundly scholarly book explores the purposes and nature of proof in a range of historical settings It overturns the view that the first mathematical proofs were in Greek geometry and rested on the logical insights of Aristotle by showing how much of that view is an artefact of nineteenth century historical scholarship It documents the existence of proofs in ancient mathematical writings about numbers and shows that practitioners of mathematics in Mesopotamian Chinese and Indian cultures knew how to prove the correctness of algorithms which are much

more prominent outside the limited range of surviving classical Greek texts that historians have taken as the paradigm of ancient mathematics It opens the way to providing the first comprehensive textually based history of proof Mathematics Roger L. Cooke, 2012-11-08 Praise for the Second Edition An amazing assemblage of worldwide contributions in mathematics and in addition to use as a course book a valuable resource essential CHOICE This Third Edition of The History of Mathematics examines the elementary arithmetic geometry and algebra of numerous cultures tracing their usage from Mesopotamia Egypt Greece India China and Japan all the way to Europe during the Medieval and Renaissance periods where calculus was developed Aimed primarily at undergraduate students studying the history of mathematics for science engineering and secondary education the book focuses on three main ideas the facts of who what when and where major advances in mathematics took place the type of mathematics involved at the time and the integration of this information into a coherent picture of the development of mathematics In addition the book features carefully designed problems that guide readers to a fuller understanding of the relevant mathematics and its social and historical context Chapter end exercises numerous photographs and a listing of related websites are also included for readers who wish to pursue a specialized topic in more depth Additional features of The History of Mathematics Third Edition include Material arranged in a chronological and cultural context Specific parts of the history of mathematics presented as individual lessons New and revised exercises ranging between technical factual and integrative Individual PowerPoint presentations for each chapter and a bank of homework and test questions in addition to the exercises in the book An emphasis on geography culture and mathematics In addition to being an ideal coursebook for undergraduate students the book also serves as a fascinating reference for mathematically inclined individuals who are interested in learning about the history of mathematics

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of characteristic of or resembling a serpent as in form or movement having a winding course as a road sinuous shrewd wily or cunning noun a device on a harquebus lock for holding the

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