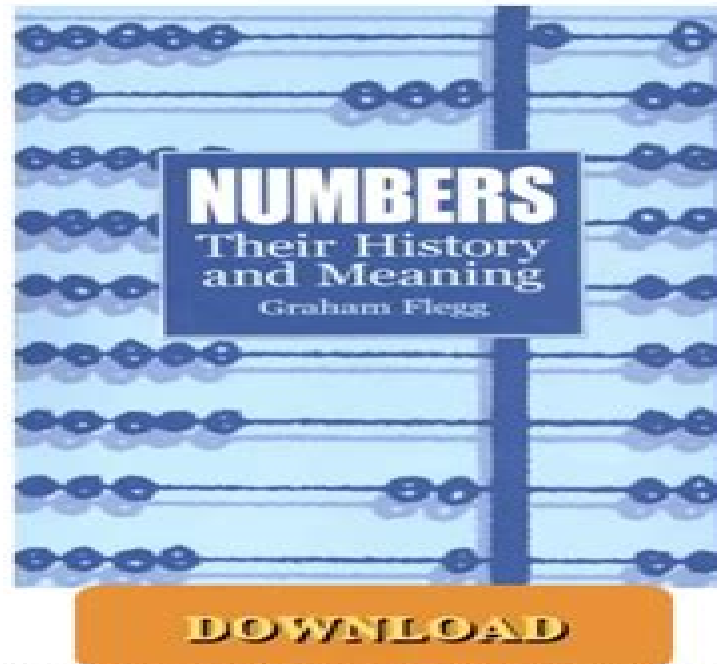


Numbers: Their History and Meaning (Dover Books on Mathematics)



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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

Numbers Their History And Meaning

Teun Koetsier, Marco Ceccarelli



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[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 Wahgi 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 **Companion Encyclopedia of the History and Philosophy of the Mathematical Sciences** Ivor Grattan-Guinness, 2004-11-11 First published in 2004 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company **Number Theory and Its History** Oystein Ore, 2012-07-06 Unusually clear accessible introduction covers counting properties of numbers prime numbers Aliquot parts Diophantine problems congruences much more Bibliography **Companion Encyclopedia of the History and Philosophy of the Mathematical Sciences** Ivor Grattan-Guinness, 2002-09-11 Examines the history and philosophy of the mathematical sciences in a cultural context tracing their evolution from ancient times up to the twentieth century 176 articles contributed by authors of 18 nationalities Chronological table of main events in the development of mathematics Fully integrated index of people events and topics Annotated bibliographies of both classic and contemporary sources Unique coverage of Ancient and non Western traditions of mathematics *The Rhetorical Use of Numbers in the Deuteronomistic History* Denise C. Flanders, 2022-04-11 The Deuteronomistic History contains many vast troop and casualty numbers What purpose does this literary device of numerical hyperbole serve What rhetorical purposes do any of the numbers in this text serve In *The Rhetorical Use of Numbers in the Deuteronomistic History* Saul Has Killed His Thousands David His Tens of Thousands Denise Flanders explores the variety of rhetorical effects that numbers have on the narrative of Joshua 2 Kings Flanders demonstrates that numbers in Joshua 2 Kings often work in surprising and subversive ways Rather than regularly glorifying a leader large casualty numbers may actually anticipate a ruler's downfall Rather than underscoring an Israelite battle victory numbers sometimes qualify or undermine the triumph of victories **Numbers** Graham Flegg, 2013-05-13 Readable jargon free book 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 Choice **Cultural Number Systems** Karenleigh A. Overmann, 2025-04-26 This sourcebook presents an extensive look at cultural number systems in numeracy and writing systems Based on a decade of research by the author the work examines topics such as why Xerxes the First counted his army by having his men march through an enclosure big enough to hold 10 000 of them at a time why the Hawaiian word for twenty means nine and two why an ancient Greek mathematician was driven mad by irrational numbers and how old counting might be and how we might know this Along the way the author describes topics such as dactylonomy the ancient art of expressing and calculating numbers with the fingers specified counting the use of different counting sequences to count different types of objects and the ephemeral abacus strategies for counting that involve people and goods but not an actual device The chapters are organized into six geographical areas the ancient Near East Africa Europe Asia India Oceania and the Americas *The Logic of the History of Ideas* Mark Bevir, 2002-06-20 Human cultures generate meanings and the history of ideas broadly conceived is the study of these meanings An adequate theory of culture must therefore rest on a suitable philosophical enquiry into the nature of the history of ideas Mark Bevir's book explores the forms of reasoning

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