A QUICK HISTORY OF MATHS

# NUMBERS THROUGH THE AGES

Can you work out what numbers are missing in the sums and sequences below? Use the **KEY** to help you.

Try writing your answers using the same symbols as the BABYLONIANS, EGYPTIANS, or ROMANS.

## COUNT LIKE A... BABYLONIAN

1. < + V = _____

2. <<V - VVV = _____

3. < × VVVV = _____

## KEY

The BABYLONIANS used a vertical wedge symbol for the number one, and a horizontal wedge for ten. So:

V = 1 < = 10

VVVV = 4 <VV = 12

<<VVV = 23 <<<<VVVVV = 45

## COUNT LIKE AN... EGYPTIAN

1.  ÷  = _____

2.  +  + | = _____

3.  ×  = _____

The EGYPTIANS used small pictures called hieroglyphs for their words and numbers:

| = 1

 = 10

 = 100

 = 1,000

 = 10,000

 = 100,000

## COUNT LIKE A... ROMAN

1. II + VIII = _____

2. II, IV, _____, VIII, X

3. C - XXX = _____

The ROMANS used letters instead of numbers. When a letter is placed before another that has a higher value, the smaller figure is taken away:

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

| X | XX | XXV | L | LXXV | XC | XCIX | C |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 20 | 25 | 50 | 75 | 90 | 99 | 100 |

## MAGIC SQUARE

The ancient Chinese came up with a fun mathematical invention, the **MAGIC SQUARE**.

**Each row, column and diagonal in the square all add up to the same total** – this is known as the MAGIC CONSTANT.

Work out the MAGIC CONSTANT of the square opposite. Then fill the gaps with the right numbers. Turn the page for all the answers!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | 8 | 15 |
| | | |
| 9 | | 11 |

MAGIC CONSTANT = _____

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## ANSWERS!

Check your answers here. How did you do?

## COUNT LIKE A... BABYLONIAN

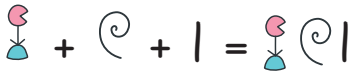
1. < + v = <v (10 + 1 = 11)

2. <<v - vvv = <vvvvvvvv (21 - 3 = 18)

3. < × vvvv = <<<< (10 × 4 = 40)

## COUNT LIKE AN... EGYPTIAN

1.  (100,000 ÷ 1,000 = 100)

2.  (10,000 + 100 + 1 = 10,101)

3.  (10 × 10 = 100)

## COUNT LIKE A... ROMAN

1. II + VIII = X (2 + 8 = 10)

2. II, IV, **VI**, VIII, X (2, 4, **6**, 8, 10 –> increasing by 2)

3. C - XXX = LXX (100 - 30 = 70)

## MAGIC SQUARE

Rows:
13+8+15 =36
14+12+10 =36
9+16+11 =36

Columns:
13+14+9 =36
8+12+16 =36
15+10+11 =36

Diagonals:
13+12+11 =36
15+12+9 =36

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | 8 | 15 |
| 14 | 12 | 10 |
| 9 | 16 | 11 |

MAGIC CONSTANT

= 36