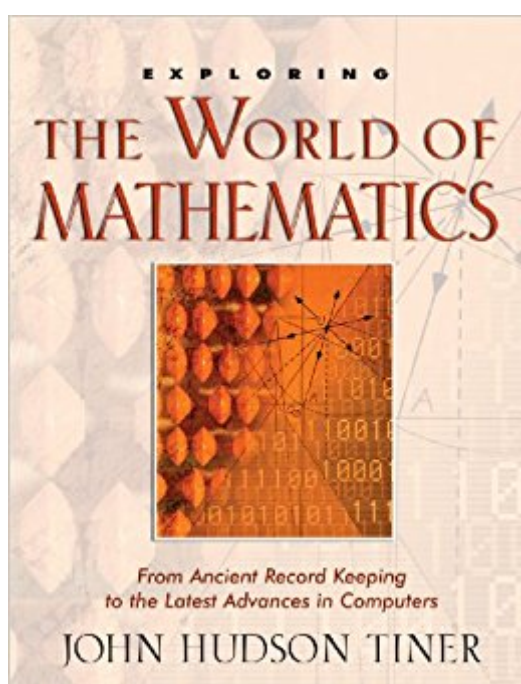


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# Exploring The World Of Mathematics: From Ancient Record Keeping To The Latest Advances In Computers (Exploring (New Leaf Press))



## Synopsis

Numbers surround us. Just try to make it through a day without using any. It's impossible: telephone numbers, calendars, volume settings, shoe sizes, speed limits, weights, street numbers, microwave timers, TV channels, and the list goes on and on. The many advancements and branches of mathematics were developed through the centuries as people encountered problems and relied upon math to solve them. For instance: What timely invention was tampered with by the Caesars and almost perfected by a pope? Why did ten days vanish in September of 1752? How did Queen Victoria shorten the Sunday sermons at chapel? What important invention caused the world to be divided into time zones? What simple math problem caused the Mars Climate Orbiter to burn up in the Martian atmosphere? What common unit of measurement was originally based on the distance from the equator to the North Pole? Does water always boil at 212° Fahrenheit? What do Da Vinci's Last Supper and the Parthenon have in common? Why is a computer glitch called a "bug"? It's amazing how ten simple digits can be used in an endless number of ways to benefit man. The development of these ten digits and their many uses is the fascinating story you hold in your hands: *Exploring the World of Mathematics*.

## Book Information

Series: Exploring (New Leaf Press)

Paperback: 157 pages

Publisher: Master Books; First Edition edition (July 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0890514127

ISBN-13: 978-0890514122

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #202,218 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Functional Analysis #173 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > History #333 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Science & Religion

## Customer Reviews

A book that helps you understand math and have fun while you are doing it. --Joanna Swift,

Production Secretary, 7/19/2004

John Hudson Tiner received five National Science Foundation teaching fellowships during his 12 years of teaching science and mathematics. He is a graduate of chemistry at the College of the Holy Cross (Massachusetts), graduate of astronomy at Sam Houston State University (Texas), and a graduate of mathematics at Duke University (NC). He also worked as a mathematician and cartographer for the Defense Mapping Agency, Aerospace Center (St. Louis). Today, Tiner is a full-time writer. His popular non-fiction books tell their stories through the lives of people who left the world in a better condition than they found it. He says, "After the research is finished, a wonderful moment occurs when the story takes over and the characters come alive. No longer am I a writer, but a time traveler who stands unobserved in the shadows and reports the events as they occur." He has received numerous honors for his writing, including the Missouri Writer's Guild award for best juvenile book for *Exploring the World of Chemistry*, which was also published by Master Books.

*The World of Mathematics* is an interesting book. It discusses the history and the mathematicians themselves. Designed for use by a variety of ages, though some of the concepts are quite advanced. You can read it as a math book, answering the questions, or as a story book reading just for the stories of the mathematicians and their discoveries. The combination makes it diversely useful. (son, Kyler, 17)

This is a wonderful way to understand history with a biblical view. Even my 10 year old was doing advanced math even though this was meant for his high school sister. Thank you for allowing me to elaborate on this book. Lisa

Just okay. Best part were the stories.

Product as expected, fast service

This series is wonderful. I love the Biblical references throughout it. My kids get to learn real facts without being indoctrinated with someone's theory.

Some texts are written to enhance the authors' standing in academia. Others are written to help the student. This one is the latter!

The item matched the description and arrived within a satisfactory time period. I am a satisfied customer and would buy again.

"Exploring the World of Mathematics" is a history of the development of mathematics with some instruction on how to do the various types of math worked in. (Chapters 5, 9, and 10 were more focused on math instruction than history.) The text was engaging and easy to understand. Much of the book was suitable for middle schoolers, though some chapters were more high school level. There were useful black and white charts and illustrations. At the end of each chapter, there were 10 questions--most tested if you learned the important points in the chapter, but some were math problems based on what was learned. The answers were in the back. The book occasionally referred to things in the Bible, like explaining the cubit as an ancient measurement of length. The author had math start with the ancient Egyptians (since, according to him, it wasn't needed before then because people were roaming herders). It also referred to a Sumerian counting system that started back in 3300 B.C. Overall, the book was interesting and well-written. I'd recommend it to those interested in an overview of the development of mathematics or to those desiring to teach their children math in an interesting way. Chapter 1 talked about ancient calendars (how days, months, and years were calculated in various cultures) and how the modern calendar was developed. Chapter 2 talked about marking the passage of time (including how & why people started counting hours, minutes, and seconds). Chapter 3 talked about the development of weights and measures from ancient ones to modern non-metric systems. Chapter 4 talked about the development of the metric system (mostly weight, length, capacity, and temperature). Chapter 5 talked about how ancient Egyptians used basic geometry to build pyramids and survey farm land. Chapter 6 talked about how ancient Greeks continued to develop mathematics. Chapter 7 talked about the different systems and symbols for numbers in various cultures and times. Chapter 8 talked about number patterns (like odd, even, prime, Fibonacci numbers, square numbers, and triangular numbers). Chapter 9 talked about mathematical proofs, decimal points, fractions, negative numbers, irrational numbers, and never-ending numbers. Chapter 10 talked about algebra and analytical geometry. Chapter 11 talked about network design, combinations & permutations, factorials, Pascal's triangle, and probability. Chapter 12 talked about the development of counting machines, from early mechanical calculators to modern digital calculators. Chapter 13 talked about the development of modern computers. Chapter 14 gave some math tricks and puzzles.

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