MATHEMATICS : FROM THE BIRTH OF NUMBERS PDF, EPUB, EBOOK

Jan Gullberg | 1128 pages | 01 Oct 1997 | WW Norton & Co | 9780393040029 | English | New York, United States

Mathematics From the Birth of Numbers by Jan Gullberg;Peter Hilton | Penguin Random House Canada

And now This is a combination history of mathematics and encyclopedic reference text. Account Options Anmelden. Meine Mediathek Hilfe Erweiterte Buchsuche. Weiter zu Google Play ». Mathematics : From the Birth of Numbers. Jan Gullberg. This extraordinary work takes the

reader on a long and fascinating journey--from the dual invention of numbers and language, through the major realms of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus, to the final destination of differential equations, with excursions into mathematical logic, set theory, topology, fractals, probability, and assorted other mathematical byways. More Details Original Title. Other Editions 3. Friend Reviews. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up. To ask other readers questions about Mathematics , please sign up. See 1 question about Mathematics…. Lists with This Book.

Community Reviews. Showing Average rating 4. Rating details. Sort order. Start your review of Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers. Jun 23, Peter rated it it was amazing Shelves: personal-development. Numeration There is infinite beauty in mathematics and numbers! Infinity in mathematics is catered for through recurring patterns and concepts, consider Pi and how it extends to infinite decimal places. When I say beauty, I think about how numbers can translate to graphical interpretation with multiple dimensions, each with unique relationships and transformations.

Picture the very precise yet artistic language of symbols and formatting, especially the Greek alphabet and its evolution from the Ph Numeration There is infinite beauty in mathematics and numbers! Picture the very precise yet artistic language of symbols and formatting, especially the Greek alphabet and its evolution from the Phoenician alphabet. I love traditional poetry where we marvel at the efficient and skilful formation of words to enchant our minds with glorious images.

In terms of the ability to transform simple notation and symbols into multi-dimensional fractious patterns and images, mathematics is the ultimate poetic language. Mathematics has a raw, honest and perfect beauty. How we strive for balance in our lives. The world exists with the reassurance and satisfaction that logic will prevail. There is a tendency to assume because mathematics is challenging and heavily utilised in science and technology, that we forget its impact on other aspects of nature, culture and history. We have become fixated with learning how to deliver the usefulness that we no longer try to appreciate the true understanding and beauty. Jan Gullberg enables us to discover the cultural birth and evolution of numbering systems, and the almost mystical and mythical association with numbers such as seven as in the 7 arms of the Hebrew candelabra, the 7 wonders of the world, the 10 commandments, abstention for 40 days and nights during Lent, the 40 years the children of Israel wandered the desert, and Ali Baba and the 40 thieves.

Numbers have a habit of repeating and appearing in very different circumstances. This book covers notation and numbering systems from our ancient past. It reviews numeration from ancient languages dating back thousands of years BC to the most utilised numbering system in the world today — binary - as in computer code. It is not a how-to book for mathematical formula and methods, it is an evocative story of the birth, growth and maturity of numbers and mathematical techniques. This is a history book dealing with the origins of numbers and mathematics. This is a mathematics book steeped in a wealth of history. A book that you will want to dip in and out of on a regular basis, it's probably not one you will read from cover to cover but it is a beautiful compendium of information and knowledge.

I would highly recommend this book, especially to those that love logic, history and mathematics. View all 17 comments. Nov 05, Matthew Richards rated it liked it. Not the book I was expecting. I assumed this would be a history of mathematics from the birth of numbers, organized chronologically and showing how concepts built over time worldwide. This approach has its own virtues, as you have to know about algebra and geometry before moving on to integral calculus, for example, but it has the disadvantage of not showing how several branches of mathematics were developed at the same time then became integrated.

I al Not the book I was expecting. I also don't feel it was always executed well. The book was at its best for the first pages, which showed how mathematics developed simultaneously with language, explaining what a number is and the different types of numbers, how different cultures chose different bases and writing systems and what their advantages were, and expanding on the cornerstones of mathematics, all with interesting cartoons and illustrations. After the first pages the book became more tedious. I became really frustrated by the page point at the chapter about trigonometry, which rattled off a bunch of half-angle formulas and identities without exploring deeper into the why and engendering a greater appreciation of the subject. Most of the book was similarly frustrating. I ended up reading the more interesting chapters that explained why the subject was interesting such as the chapters on topology, fractals, motion, and probability, but I skimmed through the rest of the chapters except for the history sections.

Speaking of the history sections, all of them were disappointingly short, some at only pages, which doesn't make sense in a book about mathematics over a thousand pages long. I was really interested to read how and why different fields were developed in more depth. All this being said, the book is incredibly useful as an encyclopedia or reference material, as it concentrates so many formulas and strategies from so many branches into one book, but as a book about the history of mathematics it's disappointing. View 2 comments. Nov 28, Robert rated it it was amazing Shelves: recommended , tech-science-math. This is how math should be taught. A top down approach as opposed to rote, with a lot of interesting history and random information to keep it interesting..

Jun 21, Rick rated it really liked it. It took me the better part of a year to read Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers, and at times I found it rather challenging. Part of my problem may have been that, for every concept, Gullberg presents the most general and abstract case, so even things I thought I understood were confusing. I started out with a pencil and paper It took me the better part of a year to read Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers, and at times I found it rather challenging. I started out with a pencil and paper to work out every proof and every example, but I gave it up well before page out of 1, Many people will find this book highly valuable, but it is not for the mathematical tourist.

Dec 05, Owltime rated it it was amazing Shelves: philosophy-science-and-mathematic. One would never completely finish such a volume; rather, s he would peruse the pages carefully and quietly, with a pencil in the hand, getting lost in the glimpse of the huge discipline of mathematics that the author has so generously bestowed. It is also quite amazing that the author's occupation was a practitioner of surgery. Jun 13, Bob Lewis rated it really liked it. This is truly an ambitious book. To discuss "Mathematics From the Birth of Numbers" in a single volume when entire textbooks--entire libraries, even--have been devoted to topics covered in but one chapter of this book seems like an impossible challenge. To some extent it is, and to some extent, the author succeeded admirably.

It depends on what one means by the discussion of mathematics. This book spans many of those different endeavors. First, it is partly a history of mathematics. Beginning wit This is truly an ambitious book. Beginning with the first chapter, the author discusses the origin of numbers themselves albeit briefly and guides the reader through an increasingly well-developed mathematical landscape culminating with a treatment of differential equations.

Is it a complete history? Not at all. It is developed well enough to give the reader a taste of how mathematics occurred throughout the past centuries, but it would not serve as a primary text for a course in the history of mathematics. What it lacks in depth, however--as I'll say repeatedly--it makes up for in breadth. Few textbooks on the history of mathematics could cover as many subjects as are handled by this book, making it a perfect supplementary text. Second, it is partly a course in mathematics.

Again, the breadth requires a certain lack of depth. However, the development of ideas is more rapid than most students would be able to keep up with. Readers wishing to actually learn mathematics would be better served buying several textbooks: one or two each on their topics of interest. However, it again makes a wonderful supplementary text because it collects the bare bones of all of those sub-disciplines between the same two covers. Additionally, it provides the beginning student of mathematics with a truly marvelous and extensive survey of the field. Third, it is a remarkable reference. Once more, while such a broad book cannot be encyclopedic on any one topic, it does make for a good book to keep on hand whenever one needs to refresh one's memory of the basics of any number of mathematical topics. Because it's both a course and a history, furthermore, I found it contained some information that most other books on mathematics omit.

When I yes, even in the twenty-first century wanted to learn how to perform more advanced operations than mere counting on my abacus, this book was my first reference. Similarly, students who grew up in the age of computers might be interested, if for no other reason than historical curiosity, to read the section explaining the correct operation of a slide rule. Regarding the use of this book as a reference, the reader should be aware that, while the vast majority of the notation is fairly standard, I did notice a few instances in which the author uses different notation from that to which I'm accustomed from my own mathematical education.

Mostly, we can consider this book a single portrait of what one might consider to be elementary meaning high-school and early undergraduate mathematics. No, it doesn't contain as many proofs as I would like and no, it doesn't have the exercises that would make it a more effective if twice as long pedagogical tool. In so doing, the author helps the reader to observe the connections between the various disciplines of mathematics and for that reason, this book deserves our attention and respect. The reader with absolutely no mathematical experience will probably find this to be a difficult read, but if you have even a little bit of background in mathematics, I think you will as I did find it to be a delightful and entertaining book well worth keeping in your personal or professional library. Aug 01, Todd N rated it really liked it.

I bought this on a whim at Bookbuyers in Mountain View and only read a few parts of it. I'm marking it as read since I gave it to my daughter's math teacher to help her class with their projects on math in ancient civilizations. This is a very quirky and personal book on math written by a doctor I think who has always been interested in mathematics. It's part history, part reference, part cartoons. Every time I cracked the book open, there was something interesting, whether it was the history of I bought this on a whim at Bookbuyers in Mountain View and only read a few parts of it. Every time I cracked the book open, there was something interesting, whether it was the history of estimates of pi or a primer on Taylor expansions and trigonometric functions. The layout reminds me of early LaTeX-formatted handouts I used to get in college with all the equations and that strange Bookman kind of font.

I wouldn't be surprised if this book is self-published, which in no way detracts from its awesomeness. Mar 28, Dave rated it really liked it Recommends it for: Math geeks. Shelves: non-fiction-read. A compendium of mathematical ideas, stories and history. A great book for those interested in recreational mathematics, basic facts about a wide range of concepts in math or inveterate browsers. Aug 24, Arlene S rated it it was ok Shelves: mathematics , reference. Some interesting historical information and math categories. Perhaps useful as a reference work. Feb 26, John Smith added it. Marking as read because it would take forever to truly "complete" and this is more of a reference book anyways.

Aug 27, Gavin rated it liked it Shelves: proto-favourites. Disarming, unpretentious, funny, deep. Dec 10, Dick Harding rated it really liked it.

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View 2 excerpts, cites background. Exploring analytic geometry with Mathematica. Highly Influenced. View 8 excerpts. He died of a stroke in Nordfjordeid , Norway at the hospital where he was working. Gullberg's second and last book, Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers , took ten years to write, consuming all of his spare time. Arnold Allen, reviewing Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers in The American Mathematical Monthly , wrote that although there were many worthy books that could claim the title of people's guide to mathematics, "Gullberg's book is clearly the overall winner. It is a wonderful read. I take it with me everywhere I go. He learns from Gullberg how to multiply and divide using an abacus. He enjoys Gullberg's account of the Fibonacci , Lucas and Pell sequences ; and he finds the two-page account of Fermat's Last Theorem "at exactly the right level for those who are mathematically disadvantaged, but with some sophistication as well. He claims that after he showed colleagues the book, he had to keep it hidden to prevent it from disappearing, and suggests that every high school maths teacher should be given a copy to improve maths teaching across America.

He records that he finds its introductory accounts useful for engineers who use maths only occasionally, and suggests how the book could be used for undergraduate students. He concludes by describing the book as "gigantic The book was positively reviewed in Scientific American , [5] but more reservedly in New Scientist. Gullberg commented, "At the start no 'real mathematician' would accept my book.

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Jan Gullberg. Publisher: W. This specific ISBN edition is currently not available. View all copies of this ISBN edition:. Synopsis About this title A gently guided, profusely illustrated Grand Tour of the world of mathematics. This extraordinary work takes the reader on a long and fascinating journey--from the dual invention of numbers and language, through the major realms of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus, to the final destination of differential equations, with excursions into mathematical logic, set theory, topology, fractals, probability, and assorted other mathematical byways.

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Peter Hilton was a British mathematician, noted for his contributions to homotopy theory and for code-breaking during the Second World War. Bibliografische Informationen.