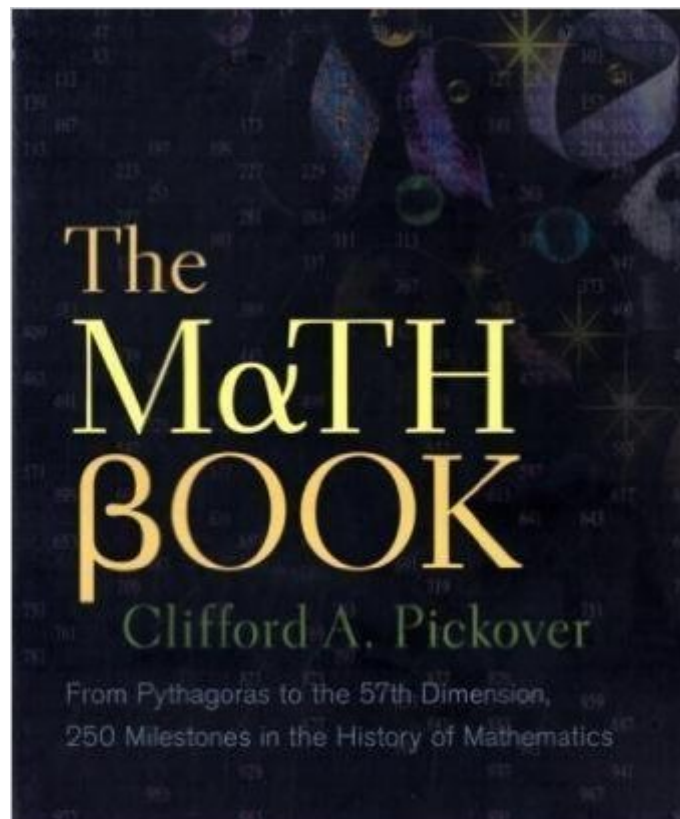# The Math Book: From Pythagoras To The 57th Dimension, 250 Milestones In The History Of Mathematics (Sterling Milestones)

Synopsis

Mathâ ™s infinite mysteries and beauty unfold in this follow-up to the best-selling The Science Book. Beginning millions of years ago with ancient â œant odometersâ • and moving through time to our modern-day quest for new dimensions, it covers 250 milestones in mathematical history. Among the numerous delights readers will learn about as they dip into this inviting anthology: cicada-generated prime numbers, magic squares from centuries ago, the discovery of pi and calculus, and the butterfly effect. Each topic gets a lavishly illustrated spread with stunning color art, along with formulas and concepts, fascinating facts about scientistsâ ™ lives, and real-world applications of the theorems.Â

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (124 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

In his previous science book, "Archimedes to Hawking", Cliff Pickover explored the great laws of science and the lives of the physicists and chemists who discovered the laws. In the "Math Book", Pickover takes on the great moments or milestones of mathematics. While the great laws of physics were almost all named by the early twentieth century, scientific milestones continue to be established. Thus, the mathematical milestones of the "Math Book" are documented into the twenty-first century.The publishers have provided Pickover with a challenging format. Each milestone is described on just one page, and each is accompanied by a full page image on the facing page. These limitations restrict the scope of the presentation for each subject. However, having as many as 250 milestones has allowed Pickover to expand some subject areas into more

than one related milestone.The images are absolutely beautiful. They include paintings, diagrams, photos, and computer-generated art. Among the best are a close-up photo of the game of Go, a map of the Internet as the illustration for the Konigsberg Bridges, the Gray Code using a diagram taken from a US patent, and the Archimedes Spiral as exemplified by a fiddlehead fern.Many of the milestones cover esoteric theoretical areas of mathematical analysis. This was not my best subject in school. However, because of the latitude provided by having 250 topics to cover, Pickover is able to include more technology-related topics.

The Math BookBy Clifford A. PickoverWhat a wonderful book. Simply terrific! And, nearly all of the illustrations arein magnificent full color too. In these pages are told the stories of exactly 250of some of the greatest events in the history of mathematics, each entry being onepage long with an illustration on the facing page and arranged in chronologicalorder. So deep and pervasive is mathematics that mathematical behavior has beenobserved in ants in their quest for food, and they appear to have some sort ofcounting mechanism which serves as an ant odometer counting the number of steps they take. It must have been an interesting job trimming their little legs orinstalling tiny stilts to detect changes in their travel distances. From antjourneys it's quite a reading journey to the final 2007 entry on Max Tegmark'sspeculation that the universe not only can be described in mathematical terms,but actually is mathematics. In between the ants and the universe we see the spirit of mathematicspersisting in a Nazi concentration camp where Curt Herzstark invented aningenious calculating device; so successful was his Curta calculator that itbecame a commercial product for about 25 years. There is also a nice story ofPope Sylvester II who was known as the Number Pope for being a mathematician;other stories are about dice and games and other chance phenomena, magic squares,and there are some of the most dazzling fractals ever put to paper, especially theone that accompanies the entry on the Hausdorff dimension.

The Math Book: From Pythagoras to the 57th Dimension, 250 Milestones in the History of Mathematics (Sterling Milestones) The Law Book: From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court, 250 Milestones in the History of Law (Sterling Milestones) Music and Mathematics: From Pythagoras to Fractals Secret Of Mental Math Arithmetic: 70 Secrets To Super Speed Calculation & Amazing Math Tricks: How to Do Math without a Calculator 2nd Grade Math Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Building Better Math Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Math Flashcards) 3rd Grade Math Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Improving Math Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Math Flashcards) 4th Grade Math

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