

Contents

Introduction 10

c. 150 Million B.C. Ant Odometer 18
c. 30 Million B.C. Primates Count 20
c. 1 Million B.C. Cicada-Generated Prime Numbers 22
c. 100,000 B.C. Knots 24
c. 18,000 B.C. Ishango Bone 26
c. 3000 B.C. Quipu 28
c. 3000 B.C. Dice 30
c. 2200 B.C. Magic Squares 32
c. 1800 B.C. Plimpton 322 34
c. 1650 B.C. Rhind Papyrus 36
c. 1300 B.C. Tic Tac Toe 38
c. 600 B.C. Pythagorean Theorem and Triangles 40
548 B.C. Go 42
c. 530 B.C. Pythagoras Founds Mathematical Brotherhood 44
c. 445 B.C. Zeno's Paradoxes 46
c. 440 B.C. Quadrature of the Lune 48
c. 350 B.C. Platonic Solids 50
c. 350 B.C. Aristotle's *Organon* 52
c. 320 B.C. Aristotle's Wheel Paradox 54
300 B.C. Euclid's *Elements* 56
c. 250 B.C. Archimedes: Sand, Cattle & Stomachion 58
c. 250 B.C. π 60
c. 240 B.C. Sieve of Eratosthenes 62
c. 240 B.C. Archimedean Semi-Regular Polyhedra 64
225 B.C. Archimedes' Spiral 66
c. 180 B.C. Cissoid of Diocles 68

c. 150 Ptolemy's *Almagest* 70
250 Diophantus's *Arithmetica* 72
c. 340 Pappus's Hexagon Theorem 74
c. 350 Bakhshali Manuscript 76
415 The Death of Hypatia 78
c. 650 Zero 80
c. 800 Alcuin's *Propositiones ad Acuendos Juvenes* 82
830 Al-Khwarizmi's *Algebra* 84
834 Borromean Rings 86
850 *Ganita Sara Samgraha* 88
c. 850 Thabit Formula for Amicable Numbers 90
c. 953 *Chapters in Indian Mathematics* 92
1070 Omar Khayyam's *Treatise* 94
c. 1150 Al-Samawal's *The Dazzling* 96
c. 1200 Abacus 98
1202 Fibonacci's *Liber Abaci* 100
1256 Wheat on a Chessboard 102
c. 1350 Harmonic Series Diverges 104
c. 1427 Law of Cosines 106
1478 *Treviso Arithmetic* 108
c. 1500 Discovery of Series Formula for π 110
1509 Golden Ratio 112
1518 *Polygraphiae Libri Sex* 114
1537 Loxodrome 116
1545 Cardano's *Ars Magna* 118
1556 *Sumario Compendioso* 120
1569 Mercator Projection 122
1572 Imaginary Numbers 124
1611 Kepler Conjecture 126
1614 Logarithms 128

1621 Slide Rule 130
1636 Fermat's Spiral 132
1637 Fermat's Last Theorem 134
1637 Descartes' *La Géométrie* 136
1637 Cardioid 138
1638 Logarithmic Spiral 140
1639 Projective Geometry 142
1641 Torricelli's Trumpet 144
1654 Pascal's Triangle 146
1657 The Length of Neile's Semicubical Parabola 148
1659 Viviani's Theorem 150
c. 1665 Discovery of Calculus 152
1669 Newton's Method 154
1673 Tautochrone Problem 156
1674 Astroid 158
1696 L'Hôpital's *Analysis of the Infinitely Small* 160
1702 Rope around the Earth Puzzle 162
1713 Law of Large Numbers 164
1727 Euler's Number, e 166
1730 Stirling's Formula 168
1733 Normal Distribution Curve 170
1735 Euler-Mascheroni Constant 172
1736 Königsberg Bridges 174
1738 St. Petersburg Paradox 176
1742 Goldbach Conjecture 178
1748 Agnesi's *Instituzioni Analitiche* 180
1751 Euler's Formula for Polyhedra 182
1751 Euler's Polygon Division Problem 184
1759 Knight's Tours 186
1761 Bayes' Theorem 188
1769 Franklin Magic Square 190
1774 Minimal Surface 192

1777 Buffon's Needle 194
1779 Thirty-Six Officers Problem 196
c. 1789 Sangaku Geometry 198
1795 Least Squares 200
1796 Constructing a Regular Heptadecagon 202
1797 Fundamental Theorem of Algebra 204
1801 Gauss's *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae* 206
1801 Three-Armed Protractor 208
1807 Fourier Series 210
1812 Laplace's *Théorie Analytique des Probabilités* 212
1816 Prince Rupert's Problem 214
1817 Bessel Functions 216
1822 Babbage Mechanical Computer 218
1823 Cauchy's *Le Calcul Infinitésimal* 220
1827 Barycentric Calculus 222
1829 Non-Euclidean Geometry 224
1831 Möbius Function 226
1832 Group Theory 228
1834 Pigeonhole Principle 230
1843 Quaternions 232
1844 Transcendental Numbers 234
1844 Catalan Conjecture 236
1850 The Matrices of Sylvester 238
1852 Four-Color Theorem 240
1854 Boolean Algebra 242
1857 Icosian Game 244
1857 Harmonograph 246
1858 The Möbius Strip 248
1858 Holditch's Theorem 250
1859 Riemann Hypothesis 252
1868 Beltrami's Pseudosphere 254
1872 Weierstrass Function 256
1872 Gros's *Théorie du Baguénodier* 258

- 1874 The Doctorate of Kovalevskaya 260
- 1874 Fifteen Puzzle 262
- 1874 Cantor's Transfinite Numbers 264
- 1875 Reuleaux Triangle 266
- 1876 Harmonic Analyzer 268
- 1879 Ritty Model I Cash Register 270
- 1880 Venn Diagrams 272
- 1881 Benford's Law 274
- 1882 Klein Bottle 276
- 1883 Tower of Hanoi 278
- 1884 *Flatland* 280
- 1888 Tesseract 282
- 1889 Peano Axioms 284
- 1890 Peano Curve 286
- 1891 Wallpaper Groups 288
- 1893 Sylvester's Line Problem 290
- 1896 Proof of the Prime Number Theorem 292
- 1899 Pick's Theorem 294
- 1899 Morley's Trisector Theorem 296
- 1900 Hilbert's 23 Problems 298
- 1900 Chi-Square 300
- 1901 Boy's Surface 302
- 1901 Barber Paradox 304
- 1901 Jung's Theorem 306
- 1904 Poincaré Conjecture 308
- 1904 Koch Snowflake 310
- 1904 Zermelo's Axiom of Choice 312
- 1905 Jordan Curve Theorem 314
- 1906 Thue-Morse Sequence 316
- 1909 Brouwer Fixed-Point Theorem 318
- 1909 Normal Number 320
- 1909 Boole's *Philosophy and Fun of Algebra* 322
- 1910–1913 *Principia Mathematica* 324
- 1912 Hairy Ball Theorem 326
- 1913 Infinite Monkey Theorem 328
- 1916 Bieberbach Conjecture 330
- 1916 Johnson's Theorem 332
- 1918 Hausdorff Dimension 334
- 1919 Brun's Constant 336
- c. 1920 Googol 338
- 1920 Antoine's Necklace 340
- 1921 Noether's *Idealtheorie* 342
- 1921 Lost in Hyperspace 344
- 1922 Geodesic Dome 346
- 1924 Alexander's Horned Sphere 348
- 1924 Banach-Tarski Paradox 350
- 1925 Squaring a Rectangle 352
- 1925 Hilbert's Grand Hotel 354
- 1926 Menger Sponge 356
- 1927 Differential Analyzer 358
- 1928 Ramsey Theory 360
- 1931 Gödel's Theorem 362
- 1933 Champernowne's Number 364
- 1935 Bourbaki: Secret Society 366
- 1936 Fields Medal 368
- 1936 Turing Machines 370
- 1936 Voderberg Tilings 372
- 1937 Collatz Conjecture 374
- 1938 Ford Circles 376
- 1938 The Rise of Randomizing Machines 378
- 1939 Birthday Paradox 380
- c. 1940 Polygon Circumscribing 382
- 1942 Hex 384
- 1945 Pig Game Strategy 386
- 1946 ENIAC 388
- 1946 Von Neumann's Middle-Square Randomizer 390
- 1947 Gray Code 392
- 1948 Information Theory 394
- 1948 Curta Calculator 396
- 1949 Császár Polyhedron 398
- 1950 Nash Equilibrium 400
- c. 1950 Coastline Paradox 402
- 1950 Prisoner's Dilemma 404
- 1952 Cellular Automata 406
- 1957 Martin Gardner's Mathematical Recreations 408
- 1958 Gilbreath's Conjecture 410
- 1958 Turning a Sphere Inside Out 412
- 1958 Platonic Billiards 414
- 1959 Outer Billiards 416
- 1960 Newcomb's Paradox 418
- 1960 Sierpiński Numbers 420
- 1963 Chaos and the Butterfly Effect 422
- 1963 Ulam Spiral 424
- 1963 Continuum Hypothesis Undecidability 426
- c. 1965 Superegg 428
- 1965 Fuzzy Logic 430
- 1966 Instant Insanity 432
- 1967 Langlands Program 434
- 1967 Sprouts 436
- 1968 Catastrophe Theory 438
- 1969 Tokarsky's Unilluminable Room 440
- 1970 Donald Knuth and Mastermind 442
- 1971 Erdős and Extreme Collaboration 444
- 1972 HP-35: First Scientific Pocket Calculator 446
- 1973 Penrose Tiles 448
- 1973 Art Gallery Theorem 450
- 1974 Rubik's Cube 452
- 1974 Chaitin's Omega 454
- 1974 Surreal Numbers 456
- 1974 Perko Knots 458
- 1975 Fractals 460
- 1975 Feigenbaum Constant 462
- 1977 Public-Key Cryptography 464
- 1977 Szilassi Polyhedron 466
- 1979 Ikeda Attractor 468
- 1979 Spidrons 470
- 1980 Mandelbrot Set 472
- 1981 Monster Group 474
- 1982 Ball Triangle Picking 476
- 1984 Jones Polynomial 478
- 1985 Weeks Manifold 480
- 1985 Andrica's Conjecture 482
- 1985 The ABC Conjecture 484
- 1986 Audioactive Sequence 486
- 1988 Mathematica 488
- 1988 Murphy's Law and Knots 490
- 1989 Butterfly Curve 492
- 1996 The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences 494
- 1999 Eternity Puzzle 496
- 1999 Perfect Magic Tesseract 498
- 1999 Parrondo's Paradox 500
- 1999 Solving of the Holyhedron 502
- 2001 Bed Sheet Problem 504
- 2002 Solving the Game of Awari 506
- 2002 Tetris Is NP-Complete 508
- 2005 NUMB3RS 510
- 2007 Checkers Is Solved 512
- 2007 The Quest for Lie Group E_8 514
- 2007 Mathematical Universe Hypothesis 516
- Notes and Further Reading 518
- Index 526
- Photo Credits 528