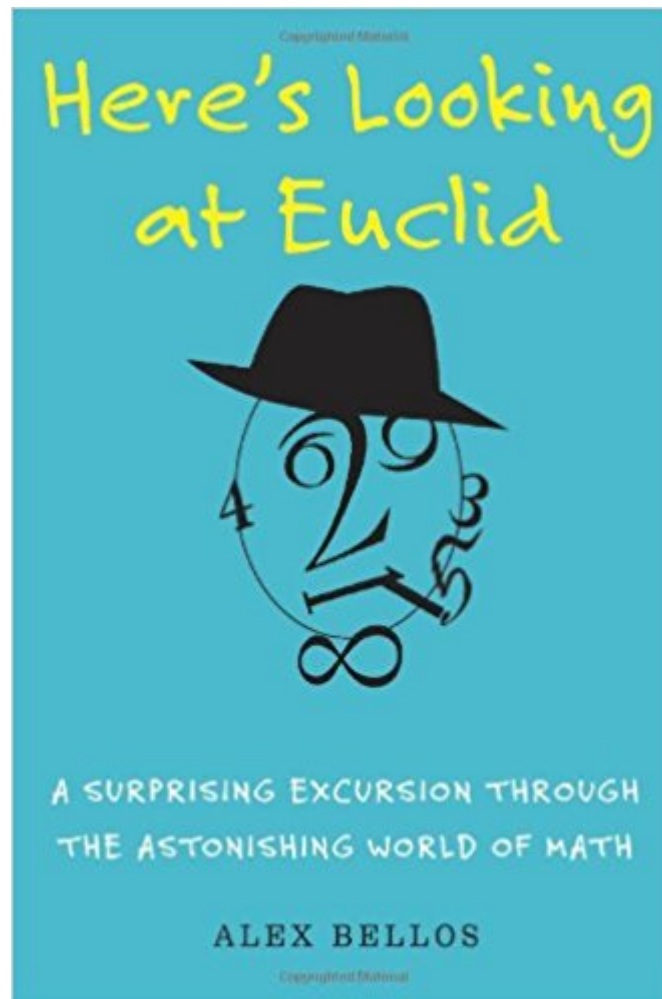


The book was found

Here's Looking At Euclid: A Surprising Excursion Through The Astonishing World Of Math



Synopsis

Too often math gets a bad rap, characterized as dry and difficult. But, Alex Bellos says, "math can be inspiring and brilliantly creative. Mathematical thought is one of the great achievements of the human race, and arguably the foundation of all human progress. The world of mathematics is a remarkable place." Bellos has traveled all around the globe and has plunged into history to uncover fascinating stories of mathematical achievement, from the breakthroughs of Euclid, the greatest mathematician of all time, to the creations of the Zen master of origami, one of the hottest areas of mathematical work today. Taking us into the wilds of the , he tells the story of a tribe there who can count only to five and reports on the latest findings about the math instinctâ "including the revelation that ants can actually count how many steps theyâ™ve taken. Journeying to the Bay of Bengal, he interviews a Hindu sage about the brilliant mathematical insights of the Buddha, while in Japan he visits the godfather of Sudoku and introduces the brainteasing delights of mathematical games. Exploring the mysteries of randomness, he explains why it is impossible for our iPods to truly randomly select songs. In probing the many intrigues of that most beloved of numbers, pi, he visits with two brothers so obsessed with the elusive number that they built a supercomputer in their Manhattan apartment to study it. Throughout, the journey is enhanced with a wealth of intriguing illustrations, such as of the clever puzzles known as tangrams and the crochet creation of an American math professor who suddenly realized one day that she could knit a representation of higher dimensional space that no one had been able to visualize. Whether writing about how algebra solved Swedish traffic problems, visiting the Mental Calculation World Cup to disclose the secrets of lightning calculation, or exploring the links between pineapples and beautiful teeth, Bellos is a wonderfully engaging guide who never fails to delight even as he edifies. Hereâ™s Looking at Euclid is a rare gem that brings the beauty of math to life.

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Free Press; 1 edition (June 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416588256

ISBN-13: 978-1416588252

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (84 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #577,656 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #200 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Number Theory #3988 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Cultural

Customer Reviews

I've read a lot of recreational math books and this one is superb. It's as good as those written by the greatest popular mathematics author of them all, Martin Gardner. In the preface the author states, "I have included a fair bit of historical material...". The first chapter makes it seem that the book will be 90% historical background and information ancillary to math, but within a few chapters that is no longer the case. Even with subjects that will be familiar to most math devotees, he adds many new interesting tidbits, e.g. if you remove all the terms of the harmonic series that contain the digit 9, the formerly infinite-summing series now sums to just under 23. "Remove all terms including ANY number and the thinned-out harmonic series is convergent." if you remove all the terms that contain the string of digits 314159, the series sums, amazingly!, to a little over 2.3 million. And mixed in with all the interesting math bits, the author constantly adds interesting asides; Peter Roget of thesaurus fame invented the slide rule log-log scale, which enabled the calculation of square roots and fractional powers like $3^{2.5}$. There are five pages about sudoku puzzles. They discuss the puzzle's background and also its math; the minimum number of clues needed to produce a puzzle with a unique solution seems to be 17, because although a man named Gordon Royle has collected over 50,000 17-clue puzzles, there has never been a 16-clue puzzle and Royle has a gut feeling that none exist. I could go on and on describing the many things I found extremely interesting in this book, but I'm too lazy to type them all out.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Here's Looking at Euclid: A Surprising Excursion Through the Astonishing World of Math Here's Looking at Euclid: From Counting Ants to Games of Chance - An Awe-Inspiring Journey Through the World of Numbers Forty Plus and Fancy Free: The gay excursion of youthful grandmothers romping through Paris and Italy and "doing" the Coronation Looking Forward, Looking Back: A Hitchhiker's Guide to Research on Social and Sustainable Investment Looking Out, Looking In: Anthology of Latino Poetry Looking Out, Looking In: Anthology of Latino Poetry (Hispanic Civil Rights) (Hispanic Civil Rights (Paperback)) All Monsters Must Die: An Excursion to North Korea Oliver Byrne: The First Six Books of the Elements of Euclid 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 Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Improving Math Skills Based on
Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Math Flashcards) 1st Grade Math Flashcards:
240 Flashcards for Building Better Math Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success
(Sylvan Math Flashcards) Kindergarten Math Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Building Better Math
Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Math Flashcards) The Secret
Garden: Dawn to Dusk in the Astonishing Hidden World of the Garden The Fourth Part of the World:
An Astonishing Epic of Global Discovery, Imperial Ambition, and the Birth of America The Golden
Ratio: The Story of PHI, the World's Most Astonishing Number The Everything Everyday Math
Book: From Tipping to Taxes, All the Real-World, Everyday Math Skills You Need (Everything
Series) The Day I Died: My Astonishing Trip to Heaven and Back Voodoo Vintners: Oregon's
Astonishing Biodynamic Winegrowers

[Dmca](#)