

Abacus

The abacus is a tool used across places all around the world, like Egypt, Greece, China, etc. It's earliest appearance is in Mesopotamia around 2700-2300 BC. The tool was made up of a table with successive columns which delineated the order of magnitude in their sexagesimal number system.

The use of the word "abacus" can be seen used in Latin before 1387 AD to describe sandboards. It is said to have meant "a square table strewn with dust"

Although the details of the tool differs from each culture, they all follow the same base concept, a row of beads that can be moved across and stacked to signify an amount.

While in most places abaci have been replaced by calculators and computers, they are still used in some parts of Eastern Europe and Africa by merchants or to teach children arithmetic