

Arabic Mathematics

Dunham leaves a pretty big gap after Chapter 5, which he covers just a little bit in the epilogue to the chapter. During the years between Heron (we'll say after 150 AD) and Cardano (in the 1500s), people were still doing mathematics, of course! During this period, mathematics was being studied mostly in the Middle East and India. Our second reading helps us get a better sense of the contributions of Arabic mathematicians during this time period.

Readings

First reading: Dunham, Chapter 5, pages 121 - 132

Second reading: Arabic Mathematics: forgotten brilliance?

Questions

Question 1 *How many of Archimedes' works were translated into Arabic?* 2
given

Question 2 *Why did Arabic mathematicians use trigonometric tables?*

Multiple Choice:

- (a) *For examples of algebra problems.*
- (b) *To teach school children.*
- (c) *In astronomy.* ✓
- (d) *In building projects.*

Question 3 *What are the most important points from this reading?*

Learning outcomes:

Author(s):

See Arabic Mathematics: forgotten brilliance? at http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/HistTopics/Arabic_mathematics.html

Free Response:
