



DOWNLOAD



How Mathematics Happened: The First 50,000 Years

By Peter S. Rudman

Prometheus Books. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, How Mathematics Happened: The First 50,000 Years, Peter S. Rudman, In this fascinating discussion of ancient mathematics, author Peter Rudman does not just chronicle the archaeological record of what mathematics was done; he digs deeper into the more important question of why it was done in a particular way. Why did the Egyptians use a bizarre method of expressing fractions? Why did the Babylonians use an awkward number system based on multiples of 60? Rudman answers such intriguing questions, arguing that some mathematical thinking is universal and timeless. The similarity of the Babylonian and Mayan number systems, two cultures widely separated in time and space, illustrates the argument. He then traces the evolution of number systems from finger counting in hunter-gatherer cultures to pebble counting in herder-farmer cultures of the Nile and Tigris-Euphrates valleys, which defined the number systems that continued to be used even after the invention of writing. With separate chapters devoted to the remarkable Egyptian and Babylonian mathematics of the era from about 3500 to 2000 BCE, when all of the basic arithmetic operations and even quadratic algebra became doable, Rudman concludes his interpretation of the archaeological record. Since...



READ ONLINE
[2.96 MB]

Reviews

Very beneficial for all type of folks. It can be rally intriguing throgh studying time. You will like how the writer publish this ebook.

-- **Nathan Cruickshank**

Totally one of the better pdf I have at any time read through. It really is simplified but shocks within the 50 % from the ebook. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

-- **Mariano Spinka**