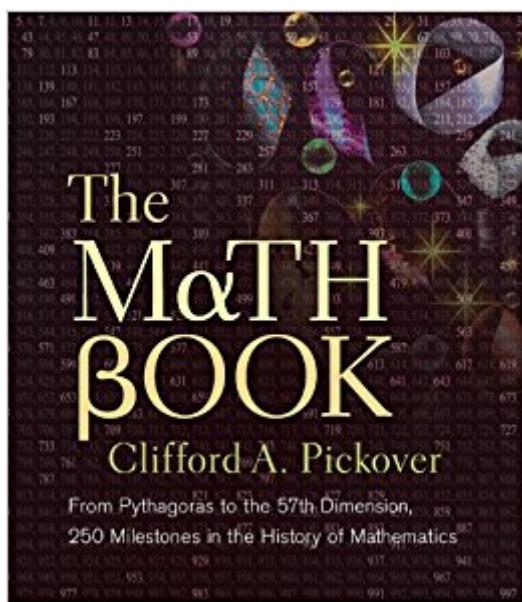


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The Math Book: From Pythagoras To The 57th Dimension, 250 Milestones In The History Of Mathematics (Sterling Milestones)



Synopsis

Math's infinite mysteries unfold in this paperback edition of the bestselling *The Math Book*. Beginning millions of years ago with ancient Å“ant odometers” and moving through time to our modern-day quest for new dimensions, prolific polymath Clifford Pickover covers 250 milestones in mathematical history. Among the numerous concepts readers will encounter as they dip into this inviting anthology: cicada-generated prime numbers, magic squares, and the butterfly effect. Each topic is presented in a lavishly illustrated spread, including formulas and real-world applications of the theorems.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 140 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *The Math Book* and Clifford Pickover: Å“Pickover contemplates realms beyond our known reality.Å“--The New York Times Å“I can't imagine anybody whose minds won't be stretched by [Pickover's] books.Å“--Arthur C. Clarke "Bucky Fuller thought big, Arthur C. Clarke thinks big, but Cliff Pickover outdoes them both.Å“--WIRED Å“

Internationally renowned author Clifford Pickover has published more than 40 books, translated into over a dozen languages, on such topics as computers and creativity, art, mathematics, black holes, human intelligence, time travel, alien life, religion, and the history of science. He is an associate editor for several journals, a puzzle contributor to magazines, and the author of over 200 articles on various subjects. Dr. Pickover received his PhD from Yale University's Department of Molecular

Biophysics and Biochemistry, having graduated first in his class from Franklin and Marshall College. Today, he holds over 70 U.S. patents for inventions dealing with computing technologies and interfaces. His website, pickover.com, has received millions of visits.

But my math-expert friend really liked this one! This series of books are very good introductions to the subjects, yet still of interest to those with a good degree of expertise. They are all similar in format: 9" tall, 7.5" wide and some 330 pages thick. At a weight of 3 pounds, they are probably not your first choice for airplane reading, but they are excellent on a living-room or bedside table. Each presents 250 topics in the chosen subject matter, with 250 beautiful full-page photos or illustrations and a full page of text. I have purchased several for myself and friends. There is some overlap between the Physics and Space volumes; Astrophysics is now a large part of astronomy and space physics. There is less overlap and more history in the Math volume. All are highly recommended.

This is a coffee table book of blurbs about 250 well known and relatively comprehensible milestones in mathematics, accompanied by illustrations on facing pages and cross-indexed with references to blurbs on related topics, which leaves us with a broad grasp of the role of mathematics in advancing civilization, but a necessarily fragmentary understanding of the very deep topics specifically described. Mathematically unsophisticated readers will end up with a fair idea of what a Bessel function or a zeta function looks like, some notion of what it's for, and enough of the fundamentals to convince ourselves that with a little effort we could figure out what it actually is. If we choose to do so, eight pages of bibliography reference books, periodicals, and websites for further reading. This would be a good primer for a college-bound youngster.

Love reading about the history of math. It's an eye opener of knowledge and shows how it all came together. I highly recommend both the seller and the product!

Despite already having published more than forty popular science and mathematics books, Cliff Pickover surely outdoes himself with *The Math Book*! This is a collection of 250 "milestones" of mathematics throughout history, complete with breathtaking glossy color illustrations for each entry (a first for his books), as well as insightful descriptions that explain the history and the significance of each of these marvels of mathematics. This includes well-known items such as Magic Squares, the Sieve of Eratosthenes, and Fermat's Last Theorem, as well as lesser-known items like Surreal Numbers and Beltrami's Pseudosphere. As obscure as some of the items might seem to lay readers,

the text is thoroughly descriptive and accessible. If you have even the slightest inclination towards mathematics, the entries will immediately draw you in, and won't let go until you've read through them all. The illustrations for each corresponding item include photographs, paintings, and computer-generated images that test the limits of your imagination. The 250 entries in the book make it an incredibly fascinating stroll through the history of mathematics. The book definitely has bestseller potential, and could easily be one of Pickover's best works.

This book covers many mathematical discoveries and milestones throughout our history. It is great for spurring imagination and inspiration, and it only takes a few minutes because almost every "Topic" has a picture and no more than 2 pages of accompanying text. I have spent hours doing further research on various "Topics" of interest triggered by reading this book. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes the "Art" in mathematics.

A pretty cool book that is set up that you may skip around to topics you like and end up not missing the intent of the book, which is to introduce the important topics through-out history of mathematical discoveries. I'm a closet mathematician and thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing. Going to look into his physics and space books as well. Highly recommended for anyone even remotely interested in math 'stuff'.

This book is okay, a little boring and not really what I expected.

I own a ton of math books, and I couldn't be happier with *The Math Book* by Clifford Pickover. This book belongs on the coffee table of every math-enthusiast. Never before have I read a book that presents complex topics in math in such an intriguing, entertaining, and mostly importantly, non-boring way. Each topic is concise yet thorough, occupying only one page each, along with a picture on the opposing page. This is the kind of book that you can just flip open and learn whichever topic you happened to have randomly landed upon. Many of the pages contain not only explanations of the topic/theory/conjecture, but also interesting cocktail party-esque facts and fun puzzles related to the topic. This book also presents a very nice history of Mathematics, as the topics are listed chronologically starting from 150 Million BC (Mathematical phenomena in nature). One final thing worth noting is that this book is a fantastic value. For a large hard-cover book with high resolution images on every other page, printed on high quality glossy paper, the price of the book is almost too good to be true. I ordered 3 of these books, one for myself and two to give

away as gifts. This makes a great gift for any of your intellectual-type friends, and seems much more expensive than it is. All in all, at the end of the day, opening this book is like a fresh breath of air in contrast to my regular math studies, and that has led me to write this incredibly positive review.

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