

Historical Milestones in Multiplication & Division

Mathematics History · Answer Key · 7 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization developed a method of multiplication based on repeated doubling and halving, often referred to as 'Egyptian multiplication' or 'duplation' and 'mediation'?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient Greece
- C) Ancient Egypt**
- D) Mesopotamia

2. Who is widely credited with introducing the 'x' symbol for multiplication in his 1631 mathematical work 'Clavis Mathematicae'?

- A) René Descartes
- B) William Oughtred**
- C) Isaac Newton
- D) Gottfried Leibniz

3. The Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci's influential book 'Liber Abaci' (1202) was crucial in introducing what to European calculation methods, including multiplication and division?

- A) Roman numerals
- B) The concept of zero
- C) Hindu-Arabic numerals**
- D) Greek geometric proofs

4. What early mechanical calculation aid, consisting of a set of numbered rods for multiplying and dividing, was invented by John Napier in the early 17th century?

- A) The Abacus
- B) The Slide Rule
- C) Napier's Bones**
- D) The Astrolabe

5. The ancient Babylonians used a sophisticated sexagesimal (base-60) number system. For which mathematical operation did they create extensive tables to aid calculations?

- A) Addition
- B) Subtraction
- C) Multiplication**
- D) Square roots

6. The obelus (\div), a common symbol for division, is often attributed to appearing in whose 1659 algebra textbook 'Teutsche Algebra'?

A) Gottfried Leibniz

B) Johann Rahn

C) Blaise Pascal

D) Pierre de Fermat

7. The absence of which mathematical concept made performing complex multiplication and division particularly cumbersome with Roman numerals?

A) The concept of infinity

B) A positional value system

C) Negative numbers

D) Fractions