

Historical Milestones in Multiplication & Division

Mathematics History · Practice Test · 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