

# Historical Milestones in Pre-Algebraic Concepts

Mathematics History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

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**1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the first known use of a positional number system with a base of 60?**

- A) The Sumerians**
- B) The Egyptians
- C) The Mayans
- D) The Romans

**2. Who is the ancient Greek mathematician often cited as the first to treat 'number' as an abstract entity rather than a count of physical objects?**

- A) Euclid
- B) Pythagoras**
- C) Thales
- D) Archimedes

**3. The Rhind Mathematical Papyrus, a primary source for understanding early Egyptian arithmetic, was written during which historical period?**

- A) Old Kingdom
- B) Middle Kingdom
- C) Second Intermediate Period**
- D) New Kingdom

**4. Which culture was the first to formalize the use of zero as a placeholder and a number in its own right, documented in the Bakhshali manuscript?**

- A) Ancient India**
- B) Ancient China
- C) Babylonia
- D) Persia

**5. In 'The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art,' an influential Chinese text, which concept was first documented to solve systems of linear equations?**

- A) Gaussian elimination
- B) Cramer's rule
- C) Fangcheng method**
- D) Euclidean algorithm

**6. The concept of 'negative numbers' was first formally recognized and defined for practical calculation in which 7th-century work?**

**A) Brahmasphutasiddhanta**

- B) Al-Jabr
- C) Liber Abaci
- D) Elements

**7. Who was the first person known to explicitly define the order of operations, establishing a standardized hierarchy for arithmetic calculation?**

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
- C) René Descartes

**D) William Oughtred**

**8. Which mathematician authored 'Liber Abaci' in 1202, which introduced the Hindu-Arabic numeral system to the Western world?**

**A) Leonardo of Pisa**

- B) Luca Pacioli
- C) Gerolamo Cardano
- D) Blaise Pascal

**9. The 'equal' sign (=) was first introduced in his 1557 book 'The Whetstone of Witte' by which mathematician?**

A) John Napier

**B) Robert Recorde**

- C) Henry Briggs
- D) Viète

**10. Which invention from the mid-17th century by Blaise Pascal is recognized as one of the first mechanical calculators capable of performing addition and subtraction?**

A) Step Reckoner

**B) Pascaline**

- C) Difference Engine
- D) Abacus