

History of Trigonometry

Trigonometry · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek mathematician is widely considered the 'father of trigonometry' for creating the first known table of chords?

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

2. The word 'sine' originates from a mistranslation of the Sanskrit word 'jya', which was first used in the mathematical works of which Indian astronomer?

- A) Aryabhata**
- B) Brahmagupta
- C) Bhaskara II
- D) Varahamihira

3. Who was the first mathematician to treat trigonometry as a distinct branch of mathematics, separate from astronomy, in his 1595 work 'Trigonometria'?

- A) Leonhard Euler
- B) Isaac Newton
- C) Bartholomaeus Pitiscus**
- D) Johannes Kepler

4. The first known use of the secant and cosecant functions in a trigonometric table can be attributed to which civilization?

- A) Ancient Egyptians
- B) Islamic Golden Age mathematicians**
- C) Ancient Mayans
- D) Han Dynasty Chinese

5. Which 16th-century mathematician introduced the use of the decimal system for trigonometric tables, greatly increasing their precision?

- A) Georg Joachim Rheticus
- B) Regiomontanus
- C) François Viète
- D) John Napier**

6. Who is credited with being the first to define the six trigonometric functions as ratios of sides of a right-angled triangle rather than as lines in a circle?

A) Thomas Fincke

B) Georg Joachim Rheticus

C) Leonhard Euler

D) Claudius Ptolemy

7. In his work 'De Triangulis omnimodis', which mathematician provided the first systematic treatment of plane and spherical trigonometry in Europe?

A) Regiomontanus

B) Gerolamo Cardano

C) Nicolaus Copernicus

D) Simon Stevin

8. Which mathematician was the first to use the modern abbreviations 'sin', 'cos', and 'tan' in his published writings?

A) Carl Friedrich Gauss

B) Leonhard Euler

C) Thomas Hobbes

D) Blaise Pascal