

Historical Milestones in Mathematics

Mathematics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which mathematician is credited with the first recorded use of the equals sign (=) in his 1557 work 'The Whetstone of Witte'?

- A) Robert Recorde**
- B) John Dee
- C) François Viète
- D) Girolamo Cardano

2. In 1900, which mathematician presented a famous list of 23 unsolved problems to the International Congress of Mathematicians in Paris?

- A) Henri Poincaré
- B) David Hilbert**
- C) Kurt Gödel
- D) Georg Cantor

3. The 'Bakhshali manuscript', an ancient mathematical text discovered in 1881, is notable for containing one of the earliest known uses of which mathematical concept?

- A) The golden ratio
- B) Zero as a placeholder**
- C) Negative numbers
- D) Calculus notation

4. Who was the first woman to be awarded the Fields Medal, receiving the honor in 2014 for her work on the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces?

- A) Ada Lovelace
- B) Emmy Noether
- C) Maryam Mirzakhani**
- D) Sophie Germain

5. Which 17th-century mathematician developed the 'method of indivisibles', which served as a precursor to the development of integral calculus?

- A) Bonaventura Cavalieri**
- B) Pierre de Fermat
- C) Blaise Pascal
- D) René Descartes

6. What is the name of the 19th-century theorem, later proven by Andrew Wiles, that states no three positive integers a , b , and c satisfy the equation $a^n + b^n = c^n$ for any integer value of n greater than 2?

A) Goldbach's Conjecture

B) Fermat's Last Theorem

C) Riemann Hypothesis

D) Poincaré Conjecture

7. Which ancient Greek mathematician successfully estimated the Earth's circumference using geometric observations and the sun's angle in Alexandria and Syene?

A) Euclid

B) Pythagoras

C) Eratosthenes

D) Archimedes

8. The 'Principia Mathematica', a foundational work in mathematical logic, was co-authored by Alfred North Whitehead and which other philosopher-mathematician?

A) Bertrand Russell

B) Gottlob Frege

C) Ludwig Wittgenstein

D) David Hilbert