

Historical Milestones in Mathematics

Mathematics · Practice Test · 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