

History of Pre-Algebra Facts

Pre-Algebra · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. In which 1557 mathematical treatise did Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde first introduce the equals sign ('=')?

- A) The Whetstone of Witte**
- B) Arithmetica Demonstrativa
- C) In Artem Analyticem Isagoge
- D) Ground of Artes

2. In what year was Indian mathematician Brahmagupta's text 'Brahmasphutasiddhanta', which contained early formal rules for zero and negative numbers, published?

- A) 528 AD
- B) 628 AD**
- C) 728 AD
- D) 828 AD

3. Around which year did Persian polymath Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi compose the foundational treatise from which the word 'algebra' derives?

- A) c. 750 AD
- B) c. 820 AD**
- C) c. 910 AD
- D) c. 1000 AD

4. How many books originally comprised 'Arithmetica', the ancient Greek algebraic work written by Diophantus of Alexandria in the 3rd century AD?

- A) 7
- B) 10
- C) 13**
- D) 18

5. In 1591, which French mathematician published 'In Artem Analyticem Isagoge', introducing the systematic use of letters for unknown and known quantities?

- A) René Descartes
- B) François Viète**
- C) Pierre de Fermat
- D) Blaise Pascal

6. In the ancient Chinese text 'The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art', what colour of counting rods was used to represent negative numbers?

- A) Red
- B) Black**
- C) Blue
- D) White

7. Which ancient Egyptian scribe copied the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus around 1550 BC, documenting early fractional arithmetic?

- A) Ahmes**
- B) Amenhotep
- C) Imhotep
- D) Pentiu

8. The symbols '+' and '-' first appeared in print in an arithmetic book published in Leipzig in 1489 by which German mathematician?

- A) Johannes Widmann**
- B) Michael Stifel
- C) Adam Ries
- D) Christoff Rudolff