

Renaissance Algebra History

Algebra · Answer Key · 9 Questions

1. Which mathematician introduced the equals sign (=) in his 1557 book 'The Whetstone of Witte'?

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Robert Recorde**
- C) René Descartes
- D) Galileo Galilei

2. What is the title of the 1202 book by Fibonacci that introduced Hindu-Arabic numerals to Europe?

- A) Liber Abaci**
- B) Ars Magna
- C) The Elements
- D) Principia

3. Which Italian mathematician published the solutions for cubic and quartic equations in his 1545 work 'Ars Magna'?

- A) Luca Pacioli
- B) Girolamo Cardano**
- C) Leonardo da Vinci
- D) Niccolò Tartaglia

4. Which mathematician was the first to use letters to represent both constants and variables in equations?

- A) François Viète**
- B) Blaise Pascal
- C) Johannes Kepler
- D) John Napier

5. What was the nickname of Niccolò Fontana, the mathematician famous for solving cubic equations?

- A) The Architect
- B) The Stammerer**
- C) The Great
- D) The Count

6. Who is credited with discovering the general solution for quartic (fourth-degree) equations?

- A) Lodovico Ferrari**
- B) Scipione del Ferro
- C) Rafael Bombelli
- D) Simon Stevin

7. Which symbols were first used in print by Johannes Widmann in 1489 to indicate surplus and deficit?

- A) x and y
- B) < and >
- C) + and -**
- D) (and)

8. Which 1494 book by Luca Pacioli contained the first printed description of double-entry bookkeeping and algebra?

- A) De Thiende
- B) Summa de arithmetica**
- C) L'Algebra
- D) The Analyst

9. Which mathematician first systematically used decimal fractions in his 1585 booklet 'De Thiende'?

- A) Simon Stevin**
- B) Robert Recorde
- C) John Wallis
- D) Thomas Harriot