








Math in History: Europe and Much More

Math in History

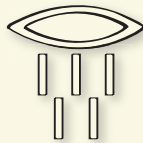
The convention of writing a fraction as numerator over denominator is relatively recent. Early cultures used a variety of methods to write fractions.

★ Here are the symbols for Egyptian numbers.

						
1	10	100	1,000	10,000	100,000	10^6

Egyptians only wrote fractions whose numerators are one. To write a fraction, they wrote the denominator under an “eye.”

For example, the fraction $\frac{1}{5}$ is shown at the right.



★ Al-Hassar (12th century), a mathematician from Maghreb (North Africa), developed the modern symbolic mathematical notation for fractions, where the numerator and denominator are separated by a horizontal bar. This same fractional notation appears soon after in the work of Fibonacci in the 13th century.



“Math in History”, Grade 6,
Chapter 2 Opener, Teaching Edition

When you were studying mathematics, did you have the feeling that it was all invented by Europeans?

Although the history of European mathematics is fascinating, our Teaching Edition helps you to help students see that the development of mathematics in other cultures is equally fascinating.

The 30 *Math in History* features each focus on two cultures including Japan, China, Australia, India, Iran, South America, North America, and Africa. In addition, the more well-known developments in the Mediterranean and European countries are included.