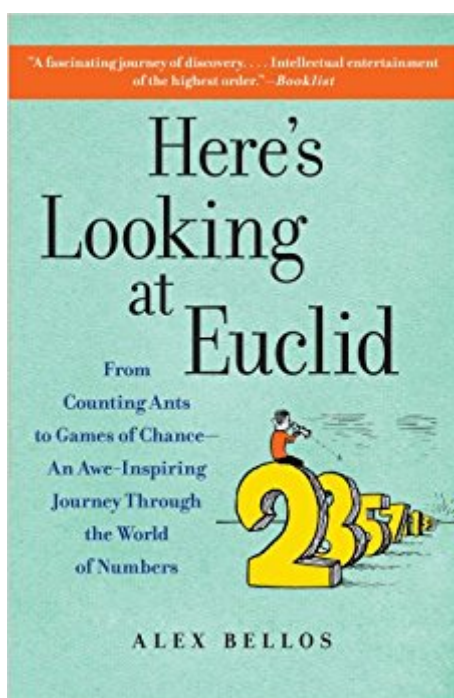The book was found

Here's Looking At Euclid: From Counting Ants To Games Of Chance - An Awe-Inspiring Journey Through The World Of Numbers

Synopsis

Too often math gets a bad rap, characterized as dry and difficult. But, Alex Bellos says, "math can be inspiring and brilliantly creative. Mathematical thought is one of the great achievements of the human race, and arguably the foundation of all human progress. The world of mathematics is a remarkable place."Bellos has traveled all around the globe and has plunged into history to uncover fascinating stories of mathematical achievement, from the breakthroughs of Euclid, the greatest mathematician of all time, to the creations of the Zen master of origami, one of the hottest areas of mathematical work today. Taking us into the wilds of the , he tells the story of a tribe there who can count only to five and reports on the latest findings about the math instinctÃ¢â ¬â •including the revelation that ants can actually count how many steps theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve taken. Journeying to the Bay of Bengal, he interviews a Hindu sage about the brilliant mathematical insights of the Buddha, while in Japan he visits the godfather of Sudoku and introduces the brainteasing delights of mathematical games.Exploring the mysteries of randomness, he explains why it is impossible for our iPods to truly randomly select songs. In probing the many intrigues of that most beloved of numbers, pi, he visits with two brothers so obsessed with the elusive number that they built a supercomputer in their Manhattan apartment to study it. Throughout, the journey is enhanced with a wealth of intriguing illustrations, such as of the clever puzzles known as tangrams and the crochet creation of an American math professor who suddenly realized one day that she could knit a representation of higher dimensional space that no one had been able to visualize. Whether writing about how algebra solved Swedish traffic problems, visiting the Mental Calculation World Cup to disclose the secrets of lightning calculation, or exploring the links between pineapples and beautiful teeth, Bellos is a wonderfully engaging guide who never fails to delight even as he edifies. HereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Looking at Euclid is a rare gem that brings the beauty of math to life.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages
Publisher: Free Press; Reprint edition (April 19, 2011)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1416588280
ISBN-13: 978-1416588283
Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches
Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars   87 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #217,382 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #48 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Number Theory   #1834 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Cultural

Customer Reviews

At last, a math book for people who think they don't like math. Alex Bellos's self-proclaimed "Surprising Excursion Through the Astonishing World of Math" delivers on its promise. You'll meet the numerologist who persuaded Puff Daddy to change his name, a Romanian probability theorist who parlayed his know-how into enough lotteries wins to fund an early retirement in the South Pacific, and the nine-year-old Japanese prodigy who can play a speed-game in which two players quickly alternate saying a word that begins with the last word's last syllable while simultaneously summing 30 three-digits numbers--in 20 seconds! You'll learn about tangrams, piems, hyperbolic crochet, nature's ubiquitous "golden ratio," the spooky dogma of the bell curve, why origami is on the bleeding edge of theoretical mathematics, how to make $250,000 in the search for ever-larger prime numbers, and how to gamble just a little bit less badly. We missed this book in 2010's "best of" lists, but it's never too late to have this much fun. --Jason Kirk --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Unlike in a traditional classroom setting, Bellos's book aims to reintroduce readers into the world of math by wandering off the beaten algebraic path and investigating interesting topics. Bellos, a former international newspaper correspondent, jets off to exotic places to talk to people about mathematical concepts that catch his fancy. Readers learn the remarkable story of how Sudoku became an overnight international sensation only after its developer, a retired judge, worked for six years on a computer program to write the puzzles. In Japan he visits a club whose school-age members can almost instantaneously add up a string of three-digit numbers by visualizing an abacus in their heads. When in America, Bellos finds himself in Nevada, exploring Reno's casino scene with a discussion of why some gamblers win, but most don't. Adult math buffs will be familiar with most of Bellos's discoveries, but his enthusiasm and lively writing-along with helpful charts and graphics-should inspire younger readers to make their own journeys of mathematical exploration. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Surprising, indeed! This book (and my puchase of it) is proof that a great title can sell a book. I'd

never heard of the author. I'm not particularly interested in math, and have certainly never intentionally read over 300 pages about it. A month ago it would have been difficult for me to conceive of something so seemingly dull as a book about math.But I loved this book!Part of the appeal of the book is its author. I am convinced that Alex Bellos could make anything interesting. He is a gifted writer, who just happens also to be a gifted mathematician; the perfect left/right-brained combination to make something like this work.The book is ordered into twelve chapters (numbered 0-11; Chapter Zero is, fittingly, about the concept of zero and how it's invention changed the world). Each chapter can be read individually, which, as Bellos says, means you can skip any chapters that you find boring... but I can pretty much guarantee that won't happen. For a book about numbers, the content is largely narrative, as opposed to being arranged in lists, tables, and other mathematical ways. The author uses his skills as a journalist to track down some remarkable people from all parts of the world, and engages readers in their fascinating stories.The "World of Math" truly is astonishing. From ancient philosophy and counting monkeys to sudoku puzzles and how to beat the odds in the casino, my mind was consistently blown on every page (but in a good way!) If I start listing individual facts that amazed me, I wouldn't be able to stop, so you're going to just have to read this book for yourself.You don't have to know advanced math to enjoy this book. Honestly, you probably don't need to know much at all about math, or be particularly good at it. Bellos never assumes too much about his audience. You merely need to love a good story, and be prepared to be thoroughly entertained.P.S. -- This book has opened my eyes to an entire genre that I never knew existed: "Recreational Math Books". I'll definitely be returning to this well!

I am no mathematician but I like some of the mind blowing things in normal life that can be understood by studying numbers.The fact that if you get more than 23 people in a room, there is a more than 50% chance that 2 of them will have the same birthday or why Apple had to make the shuffle less random because real random feels like you hear the same songs again and again.The book is full of wonderful facts. it is written in an easily understandable way and even when there is some concept to look at, you do not have to even think about it, never mind understand it to appreciate the points being made.Some of the things about shapes, patterns and number sequences and how it affects us are jaw dropping. If you have any sort of puzzle solving yearn in you then there is a lot in this book you will like.

I enjoyed this book. It was an enjoyable journey through multiple areas of mathematics. Numbers, euclidean geometry, recreational mathematics, probability and statistics and finally non-euclidean

geometry are presented with motivating current everyday examples being enriched by the historical developments that underpinned them. I particularly enjoyed the chapters on mathematical devices, e.g. Curta, recreational mathematics, the chapters on chance and statistics. The mathematical discussions are interspersed with interesting personalities and personal anecdotes such as weighing baguettes ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢ ¬Ã Ëœin search ofÃƒÂ¢Ã¢ ¬Ã â„¢ the normal distribution, only to be thwarted by the heatÃƒÂ¢Ã¢ ¬Ã Â¦in the footsteps of Poincare.

Bellos' excursion into the world of numbers sits somewhere between a history book and a pop culture examination. It isn't encompassing enough to be considered a history of mathematics, but what it lacks in sheer breadth, it makes up for in enthusiasm and relatability. Consider this book an introduction to the world of mathematics for people who think they don't like or understand math.A relatively quick read, but with excellent depth in what subjects it does examine, Bellos' exploration of key mathematical concepts weaves a story about this often dense subject matter that leaves the reader with several concepts per chapter that they will find themselves repeating to friends later that night. Information about base 10 and 12 systems (and evidence for why base 12 might be the better system), origami, the invention of the modern numerals, the concept of zero, pi, how algebra and geometry finally connected (and why exactly we use "x" so much), probability (while looking at gambling), the golden ratio and non-Euclidean geometry all jump out from the pages thanks to historical stories and Bellos' excellent writing style.The only drawback is that you get so used to Bellos making math subjects interesting that when you hit the few dryer portions of the book, the text seems to drone a bit. This occurs in two particular parts. At the beginning with the overly discussed Munduruku tribe, and at the end with the discussion of multiple infinities. One might even get a bit bored with the examination of distributions in statistics, but it's still a fascinating concept if you take the time to understand how it has influenced the world.Mathematics are so important to education, life and the science and technology that influences our lives that it is a shame so many students adopt an attitude of antipathy towards it. Bellos' book, on the other hand, could potentially change that. If freshman math courses offered a marking period on the history of math, it could open up students to a better appreciation for the material. This book does just that.

Here's Looking at Euclid: From Counting Ants to Games of Chance - An Awe-Inspiring Journey Through the World of Numbers Here's Looking at Euclid: A Surprising Excursion Through the Astonishing World of Math Warriors Word Scramble: Word Scramble Games - Word Search, Word Puzzles And Word Scrambles (Word Games, Brain Games, Word Search, Word Search Games,

Word ... Scramble, Word Scrabble, Unscramble Word) Hoyle's Rules of Games: The Essential Family Guide to Card Games, Board Games, Parlor Games, New Poker Variations, and More Travel Games for Adults: Coloring, Games, Puzzles and Trivia: Featuring Over 60 Activities including Group Games, Games for Two, Scavenger Hunts, ... Word Search, Word Scramble and more Complete Guide to Carb Counting: How to Take the Mystery Out of Carb Counting and Improve Your Blood Glucose Control How Many Snails?: A Counting Book (Counting Books (Greenwillow Books)) Blackjack Strategy: Winning at Blackjack:Tips and Strategies for Winning and Dominating at the Casino (Blackjack, Counting Cards, Blackjack Winning, Good at Blackjack, Black Jack, Card Counting) Ways of Counting: All the Counting Methods beginning with Permutations and Combinations (Quick Review and Preview Series in Math and Science Book 2) The Babylonian Theorem: The Mathematical Journey to Pythagoras and Euclid The Michigan Counting Book (America by the Numbers) On the Launch Pad: A Counting Book About Rockets (Know Your Numbers) From the Garden: A Counting Book About Growing Food (Know Your Numbers) Underwater Counting: Even Numbers Numbers and the Making of Us: Counting and the Course of Human Cultures This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey Through Tanzania Two Wrongs: A Second Chance Romance (Trouble by Numbers Book 2) Journey to the Ants: A Story of Scientific Exploration Family Games: Fun Games To Play With Family and Friends (Games and Fun Activities For Family Children Friends Adults and Kids To Play Indoors or Outdoors)