MATH: A TALE AS OLD AS TIME

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Math has been around the world for quite a while now. It has been solving human inconvenience from the moment it appeared until now. It gives us various benefits and educates the human race. It builds institutions and society. Math is constantly improving the benefits we can obtain from it, but where exactly does math come from?

There are lots of words that we can hear about the origin of math. In a timeline provided by Mathgion, it shows that Mathematics started roughly 20,000 BCE; after scientists discover Ishango bone, a bone with several line carvings, in 1950, the scientists affirm that this is a tool that ancient humans used to count. The lines engraved have various lengths; it was then theorized that each length of line symbolizes a certain value. The bone is said to be 20,000 years of age; hence, some markings faded naturally. Around 3,000 BCE, clays are being used to represent quantity. Each shape of the clay has its own respective value. Mesopotamian tablets are also found, and it is said it was used in 2,700 BCE. It has markings and a series of quantities of numbers can be seen here.

In around 500 BCE, Thales of Miletus has been recognized as one of the pioneers that gave math a strong foundation. A theorem has been born at this point of time; it is named after Thales—the Thales Theorem. Here, Thales explained that, in layman's terms, if points A, B, and C formed a semi-circle whereas A and C are the diameter, then point A, B, C make a right angle. This theory helps lots of architectural buildings we have today (Mastin, 2020).

From this point, numbers of prominent names rose. We got Pythagoras, Archimedes, Euclid, Aristotle, and others in the Classical Antiquity era. They own the

names we often hear when we are talking about contributions in math. Later on, the Middle Ages is invaded by Fibonacci, Thabit, Jia, and the others. After that era, Renaissance produced math contributions under these names: Pascal, Pacioli, DaVinci, Kepler, Descartes, Galileo, and so on. In the enlightenment era, Sylvester, Babbage, Hamilton, Hardy, and the great Einstein made a significant contribution here. At present, the Modern Era which the timeline starts at 1900's, there are contemporary math contributors that the world is looking up to like Gardner and Shannon. Until now, the timeline of math is open for the aspiring math contributors to be lined up.

Mathematics is a key subject that needs to be used in real life. Mathematics has gone through a lot. Lots of theories have been accepted as truth and some were debunked. Others are still sitting at the shelf of theorems. Nonetheless, we can say that math has been part of our lives. It is there from the beginning, and it is no brainer that it will last until the end. Today, with all the problems that humanity is facing, math stands as a gateway that offers solutions for it.

References:

Mastin, L. (2020). Thales' Theorem – Explanation & Examples. Retrieved from The Story of Mathematics: https://www.storyofmathematics.com/thales-theorem

https://mathigon.org/timeline

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