

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light blue chevrons (V-shapes) pointing downwards. In the center of the page is a white rectangular box with a thick black border. Inside this box, the title is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

FAMOUS MATHEMATICIAN WEBQUEST

HISTORY OF MATH
WEBQUEST

1. I am best remembered for my work in number theory. I baffled mathematicians with a quote I wrote in the margin of a book I was reading. The proof of my last theorem wasn't finished until 1994.	2. I wrote a book entitled "The Elements" on which high school geometry is based. I am sometimes known as "The Father of Geometry."
3. One of my famous quotes is, "If I have seen farther, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants."	4. I was an ancient mathematician who asked that my grave be marked with a sphere inscribed in a cylinder.
5. I incorporated a magic square in my painting, Melancholia. The magic square also contains the number 1514, the year I created the painting.	6. I am the man who popularized the use of the tall S as a symbol for the integral.
7. I am a young French mathematician who knew I was going to be killed in a duel. Legend says that I stayed up all night before the duel and wrote the mathematics I had created, but had never had time to write down. Much of my great work has been lost.	8. In 1820, I designed a "difference engine" to calculate and print multiplication tables. The engine failed only because parts of it could not be maintained precisely.
9. I worked on mathematics during the third century and am best known for my work on number theory. I wrote a book entitled "Arithmetica".	10. I am best remembered for a certain sequence of numbers. The sequence of numbers can be found in nature, architecture, and even in great paintings!

11. I was a Greek lady who enjoyed studying mathematics. I was killed by a mob, possibly at the instigation of Cyril of Alexandria. I was the first known woman mathematician.	12. I became very bitter in my later years over a controversy with Leibniz over which of us discovered calculus first. I felt he stole my ideas and published them.
13. I loved working with levers and am quoted as saying, "Give me a place to stand and I will move the Earth."	14. I am an American president who developed an original proof for the Pythagorean Theorem while I was in the House of Representatives.
15. I am a French mathematician who was asked by Queen Christina to come to Sweden to tutor her in math. All my life I slept late – in fact, some say I made a great discovery while watching a fly go across the ceiling.	16. About 200 BC, I described the graceful curves that could be made by a plane surface intersecting the surface of a cone. The book that contains my description is called Conics.
17. I founded a philosophical and religious school. My followers and I believed that everything in the universe could be reduced to some numerical relationship.	18. I was the teacher of Isaac Newton. I resigned the Lucasian chair at Cambridge in favor of my pupil.
19. I did serve as a cavalryman, but had to resign because of nearsightedness. I solved important calculus problems.	20. We are a famous Swiss family who lived in the eighteenth century. Our family included many famous and distinguished mathematician including Jacob, Johann, and Nicolaus.

FAMOUS MATHEMATICIANS IN THIS WEBQUEST

Apollonius

Archimedes

Babbage

Barrow

Bernoulli

Descartes

Diophantus

Dürer

Euclid

Fermat

Fibonacci

Galois

Garfield

Hypatia

Leibniz

L'Hôpital

Newton

Pythagoras

NOTES TO THE TEACHER:

I use this webquest as a project that students can complete on their own at home, in the computer lab, or in the classroom with technology present.

I have my students use the website

<http://turnbull.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/history/biogindex.html>

to complete this assignment. Although using Google might work just as well.

There are 20 questions in this assignment and 18 mathematicians listed. Two of the mathematicians are used twice.

My goal for this assignment is to familiarize students with famous mathematicians. I hope that my students may realize that mathematicians had interesting lives!

ANSWERS:

1. Fermat
2. Euclid
3. Newton
4. Archimedes
5. Durer
6. Leibniz
7. Galois
8. Babbage
9. Diophantus
10. Fibonacci
11. Hypatia
12. Newton
13. Archimedes
14. Garfield
15. Descartes
16. Apollonius
17. Pythagoras
18. Barrow
19. L'Hopital
20. Bernoulli