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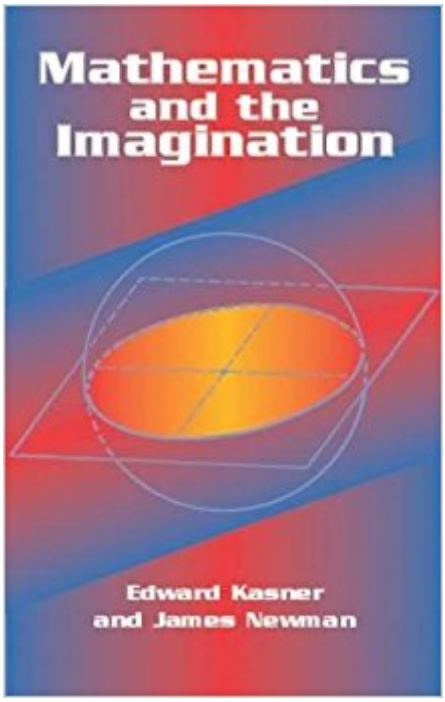
Mathematics And The Imagination (Dover Books On Mathematics)



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Synopsis

You donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have to love math to enjoy a hand of cards, a night at the casino, or a puzzle. But your pleasure and prowess at games, gambling, and other numerically related pursuits can be heightened with this entertaining volume, in which the authors offer a fascinating view of some of the lesser-known and more imaginative aspects of mathematics.A brief and breezy explanation of the new language of mathematics precedes a smorgasbord of such thought-provoking subjects as the googolplex (the largest definite number anyone has yet bothered to conceive of); assorted geometries Ã¢â ¬â • plane and fancy; famous puzzles that made mathematical history; and tantalizing paradoxes. Gamblers receive fair warning on the laws of chance; a look at rubber-sheet geometry twists circles into loops without sacrificing certain important properties; and an exploration of the mathematics of change and growth shows how calculus, among its other uses, helps trace the path of falling bombs.Written with wit and clarity for the intelligent reader who has taken high school and perhaps college math, this volume deftly progresses from simple arithmetic to calculus and non-Euclidean geometry. It Ã¢â ¬Å“lives up to its title in every way [and] might well have been merely terrifying, whereas it proves to be both charming and exciting." Ã¢â ¬â • Saturday Review of Literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first read this book in 1956 and was amazed at its clarity. When my granddaughter had trouble

understanding the concept that a series with an infinite number of terms could nevertheless have a finite sum, I thought immediately of this book. It is a classic and required reading for anyone seeking to gain an understanding of the differences between infinity and very large numbers amongst other things. Having completed the first course in algebra will be a help to understanding this book but it not a requirement.

I gained quite a few good concepts relating to the philosophies behind mathematics along with good mathematic examples that anyone with basic algebra skills would yield some benefit from.It's a fun book with it's twists and turns of subject matter.

I read this for the first time in 1971, when I was in high school. It was a good layman's introduction to many of the fields of mathematics then, and it still is. It doesn't have anything about some of the newer developments, such as fractals, but it's still informative and entertaining.

I found the book to be very interesting. There were parts that were beyond my knowledge or interest. I would buy again and recommend to others.

this book is more than 50 years old, but it still provides valuable insight for any math-oriented high school student and especially so for those students who plan for careers in mathematics or any of the sciences.

I read it when I was 12, then again at 35, and now at 70 years old. I have revisited it throughout my life and I am most grateful for all it has given me.

The book provides a logical and entertaining explanation of the principals of mathematics and their development.

If you like mathematics and how numbers and formulas work, it's worth having a look.

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