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Count Your Cargo

The Greeks used the letters of their alphabet to also make their numbers. They used 24 letters, plus three additional symbols that are now obsolete. The first nine letters represented numbers 1–9. The next nine letters represented multiples of 10, from 10–90. The last nine letters represented multiples of 100, from 100–900. Counting up to 999 was quite easy if you knew all 27 symbols!

Α	alpha	1	Ι	iota	10	Ρ	rho	100
Β	beta	2	Κ	kappa	20	Σ	sigma	200
Γ	gamma	3	Λ	lambda	30	Τ	tau	300
Δ	delta	4	Μ	mu	40	Υ	upsilon	400
Ε	epsilon	5	Ν	nu	50	Φ	phi	500
	obsolete digamma	6	Ξ	xi	60	Χ	chi	600
Ζ	zeta	7	Ο	omicron	70	Ψ	psi	700
Η	eta	8	Π	pi	80	Ω	omega	800
Θ	theta	9		obsolete koppa	90		obsolete sampi	900

To write the numbers, the Greeks combined the letters, starting with the largest value. For example:

$$NE = 50 + 5 = 55$$

$$PKB = 100 + 20 + 2 = 122$$

Use the chart to write the value of these Greek numbers.

1. TI = _____
2. PNE = _____
3. MΔ = _____
4. ΨΛΕ = _____
5. ΤΠΔ = _____
6. ΟΘ = _____
7. ΦΘ = _____
8. ΥΚΑ = _____
9. ΧΞ = _____

Use the chart to write the Greek equivalent of these numbers.

1. 37 = _____
2. 88 = _____
3. 71 = _____
4. 63 = _____
5. 221 = _____
6. 734 = _____
7. 582 = _____
8. 459 = _____
9. 104 = _____

Answers—Fold over or cover before reproducing for students.

1. 310
2. 155
3. 44
4. 735
5. 384
6. 79
7. 509
8. 421
9. 660
1. ΛΖ
2. ΠΗ
3. ΟΑ
4. ΞΓ
5. ΣΚΑ
6. ΨΛΔ
7. ΦΠΒ
8. ΥΝΘ
9. ΡΔ

Magic Triangles and Squares

The Greeks continually observed patterns and relationships in nature to help explain concepts in such areas as geometry. Experiment with the activities below to discover some truths about lines, triangles, squares, and circles. Remember that all angle measurements are in degrees.

Materials: Gather scrap paper, tape, a pencil, a compass, and a protractor.

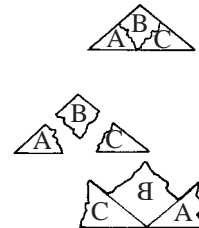
Problem #1: How are a triangle and a straight line alike?

1. Cut out a triangle of any shape and size and label the corners A, B, and C. Use the protractor to measure the three angles.

A= _____, B= _____, C= _____.

Add these together, and record the total: _____

2. Now tear off each of the corners, leaving the labels attached.
3. Put the corners together as shown.



4. Use the protractor to measure the straight line. Result: _____
5. Try this at least three more times and record your results. What happens each time? _____

Fact: The sum of the angles of a triangle equals _____.

Fact: A straight line equals _____.

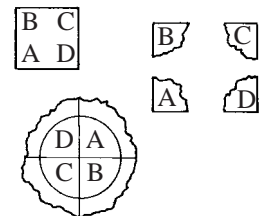
Problem #2: How are a square and a circle alike?

1. Cut out a square of any size. Make sure it is a true square with four equal sides and four right angles.
2. Label the corners A, B, C, and D. Use the protractor to measure the four angles.

A= _____, B= _____, C= _____, D= _____.

Add these together, and record the total: _____

3. Tear the square into fourths, leaving the corners intact and labels attached.
4. Put the corners together and tape them. Using the point where the corners meet as the center, use a compass to draw a circle.



5. Use the protractor to measure the circle. Result: _____
6. How are a square and a circle alike? _____
7. Try this at least three more times and record your results. What happens each time? _____

Fact: The sum of the angles of a square equals _____.

Fact: A circle equals _____.

Research Question: Are circles and straight lines also angles?