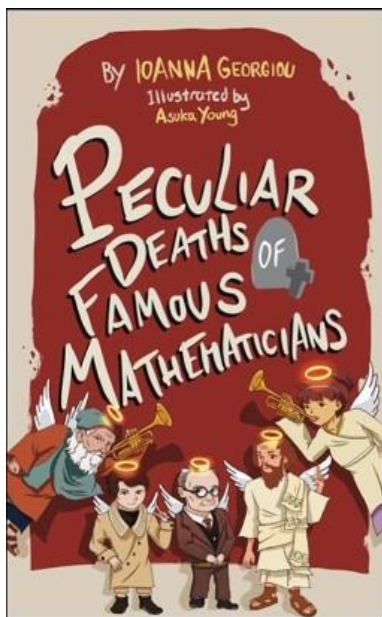


Greenwich Maths Time

Peculiar Deaths of Famous Mathematicians

Ioanna Georgiou

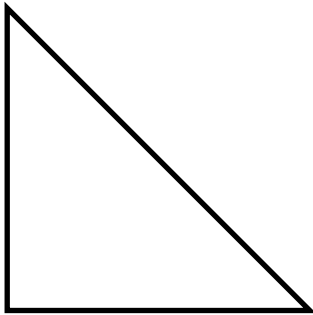
Mathematics Educator and Author



1. Hippasus

~500BC

Right-angled triangle, 1 unit * 1 unit



Proof by contradiction that the square root of 2 is irrational:

Let $\sqrt{2}$ be rational and that

$\sqrt{2} = \frac{n}{m}$, in its lowest terms

$$m\sqrt{2} = n$$

square both sides to get

$$2m^2 = n^2$$

So n must be even

(a square number can only be even

if the original number is even)

and n^2 must be divisible by 4

So m^2 must also be even

which implies m is also even

So $\frac{n}{m}$ is not reduced

(at least 2 as a common factor)

Hence $\sqrt{2}$ cannot be written as a fraction

Hippasus Death

2. Hypatia

~360-415AD

$x - y = a$, $x^2 - y^2 = (x - y) + b$, where a and b are known values.

Hypatia's death

3. Abraham De Moivre

1667-1754

Independent events

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B)$$

De Moivre's death

4. Kurt Gödel

1906-1978

This statement cannot be proved


Gödel's death

Your vote on which death is true

Mathematician	Cause of Death	Vote
Hippasus		
Hypatia		
De Moivre		
Gödel		

Websites and Reading List


- Mathematical Adventures! (2020) by Ioanna Georgiou
- Peculiar Deaths of Famous Mathematicians (2022) by Ioanna Georgiou
- <http://mathsisgoodforyou.com>
- <http://www.storyofmathematics.com/>
- <http://www.philosophers.co.uk/>
- <https://www.claymath.org/>
- The parrot's theorem by Denis Guedj
- Uncle Petros and Goldbach's conjecture by Apostolos Doxiades
- Flatland, by Edwin Abbott
- Eagle, M.R. (1995) Exploring Mathematics Through History, Cambridge University Press: Bicester, Oxon
- Lumpkin, B., Strong, D. (1995) Multicultural Science and Math Connections; Middle School Projects and Activities J. Weston Walch Publisher Portland, Maine
- Addison-Wesley (1993) Multiculturalism in Mathematics, Science, and Technology: Readings and Activities Addison-Wesley Publishing Company
- Peculiar Deaths of Famous Mathematicians
- <https://www.infinitelyirrational.com/>



Infinitely Irrational: A Math Podcast

<https://feed.podbean.com/infinitelyirrational/feed.xml>

A podcast where we explore the real, scientific, and complex history of math.



35. Cantor's Paradox: A Journey through the Rabbit Hole of Sets

Tuesday Apr 30, 2024


Ioanna Georgiou, mathematics educator and author of "Mathematical Adventures" and "Peculiar Deaths of Famous Mathematicians", finishes up the discussion on Georg Cantor! In this episode, we'll attempt to answer the following questions:

- Should you count sheep or letters to get to sleep?
- Can you have infinite infinites?
- What do either of these have to do with math?

Connect with Ioanna at her website <https://ioannageorgiou.com/> or on one of her social channels:

IG: @yoayeomaths

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34. Cantor's Labyrinth: Navigating the Maze of Infinite Numbers

Sunday Mar 31, 2024


Ioanna Georgiou, mathematics educator and author of "Mathematical Adventures" and "Peculiar Deaths of Famous Mathematicians", continues the discussion on Georg Cantor! In this episode, we'll attempt to answer the following questions:

- Are your choices really your own?
- If a hotel has infinite rooms, can there ever be no vacancy?
- What do either of these have to do with math?

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IG: @yoayeomaths

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33. Cantor: An Infinite Odyssey

Thursday Feb 29, 2024

Ioanna Georgiou, mathematics educator and author of "Mathematical Adventures" and "Peculiar Deaths of Famous Mathematicians", joins us to discuss Georg Cantor! In this episode, we'll attempt to answer the following questions:

- What does it mean to call somewhere "home"?
- What's the worst way to spend a honeymoon?
- What do either of these have to do with math?

Connect with Ioanna at her website <https://ioannageorgiou.com/> or on one of her social channels:

IG: @yoayeomaths

Twitter/TikTok: @ioa/yo

Let us know your thoughts. Follow us on Facebook or email us at podcast@infinitelyirrational.com. For math and the research behind the episode, visit our webpage at www.infinitelyirrational.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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And an unsolved problem to end with:

Goldbach's Conjecture!

*Is it true that **EVERY** even integer can be written as the sum of two primes?*

What can you find about this conjecture?

How many attempts have there been to date?

Do you think it will ever be solved?

Twitter/TikTok: @YoaYeo

IG: @yoayeomaths

FB: @mathematicaladventures.book