

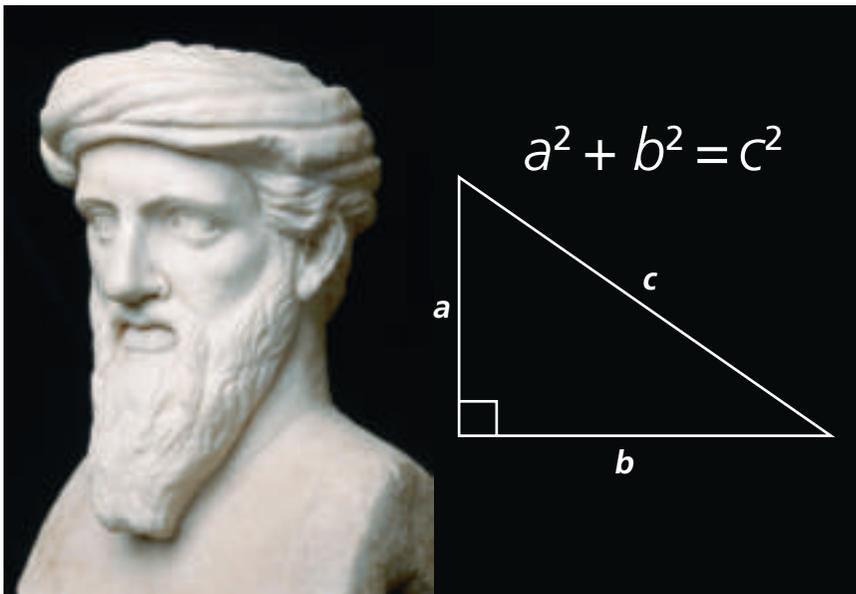


Mathematics

The Greeks also made important contributions in the field of mathematics. In fact, the studies of Pythagoras, a Greek philosopher and mathematician, became the foundation for modern mathematics. Pythagoras is responsible for much of what we know about odd and even numbers. His school also developed what is now called the Pythagorean theorem in geometry, stating that the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

Euclid, another Greek mathematician, wrote *Elements*, a study of plane geometry, proportions, and the theory of numbers. Today, Euclid's *Elements* is still used as a basis of high school instruction in plane geometry.

Archimedes, another Greek mathematician, wrote about his investigations in geometry, arithmetic, and mechanics. He made important discoveries regarding curved and solid figures. In mechanics, he explained the principle of the lever and invented the pulley.



Greek scholars made many important contributions to our understanding of mathematics. They also invented many simple technical devices.



Art

The foundation of Western art also comes from the Greeks. The Greeks believed that “man is the measure of all things” and regarded the human body as an art form. Sculptors made statues of people and gods in relaxed and lifelike poses. Before, bodies had been portrayed in stiff and stylized ways. Now they showed movement and emotion. Sculptors also began to show human triumphs and suffering in their art work, instead of focusing only on the gods.

Painters also began creating realistic pictures of everyday life. Scenes painted on pottery showed people in their daily lives—working, cooking, playing, and observing religious practices. At the same time, objects used in daily life became works of art. Bowls, pitchers, cups, and vessels for holding water, oil, or food were painted and decorated by artists.

