Reading Worksheet for Section 2.6

History of Mathematics

1. Note some of the errors that occur on the tablet Plimpton 322. What do you think of the detective work?

2. Calculus is famous for "ladder problems": "a ladder slips away from a wall at a constant rate....". What ladder problems do you find in here?

3. Explain "square plus sides".

4. What do we learn from the Cairo Mathematical papyrus?