

Reading Worksheet for Section 1.3

History of Mathematics

August 26, 2009

1. For every Geographic reference in the reading, annotate the world map with which you've been provided. Write the list of places here.
2. To what does our author attribute the “dynamic” cultural changes experienced in Mesopotamia?
3. In your mind, what does the cuniform system imply about Babylonian understanding of symmetry and geometry?

4. What is the major source of confusion in the Babylonian representation of numbers?

5. Why were the Babylonian fractions preferable to the Egyptian fractions?

6. Why don't we find more Chinese sources?

7. What does our author claim was the "main importance of mathematics" to the Chinese throughout their history?