

***The Saga of Mathematics: a brief history*, by Marty Lewinter and William Widulski**

This is a very readable book that uses lively language to put mathematics in an interesting, historical context. It is recommended for readers who have had at least some exposure to algebra. As the title suggests, it is a brief account of the history of mathematics presented through applications to such topics as: art, philosophy, music, computers, navigation, science, and technology. The mathematics presented is limited to: arithmetic, algebra, and geometry. These topics are presented in a way that makes them relevant to daily life as well as larger issues. For those interested in participating, there are numerous exercises presented in the book and appendices with answers in the back of the book. Chapter titles are: Oh So Mysterious Egyptian Mathematics; Mesopotamia Here We Come; Those Incredible Greeks; Greeks Bearing Gifts; Must All Good Things Come to an End?; Europe Smells the Coffee; Mathematics Marches On; A Few Good Men; A Most Amazing Century of Mathematical Marvels!; The Age of Euler; A Century of Surprises; Ones and Zeros; Some More Math Before You Go. The Appendices are: A Use of Egyptian Fractions; Additional Problems; Answers to Selected Exercises.

Reviewed by Bill Richardson