



The Book of Numbers

By John H. Conway, Richard Guy

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Book of Numbers lets readers of all levels of mathematical sophistication (or lack thereof) understand the origins, patterns, and interrelationships of different numbers. Whether it is a visualization of the Catalan numbers or an explanation of how the Fibonacci numbers occur in nature, there is something in here to delight everyone. The diagrams and pictures, many of which are in color, make this book particularly appealing and fun. A few of the discussions may be confusing to those who are not adept mathematicians; those who are may be irked that certain facts are mentioned without an accompanying proof. Nonetheless, *The Book of Numbers* will succeed in infecting any reader with an enthusiasm for numbers.

From Library Journal

The authors are well known to both academic and recreational mathematicians?Conway for inventing the "game of life" and discovering surreal numbers and Guy as the editor of the "Unsolved Problems" section in *American Mathematical Monthly*. They also coauthored the classic *Winning Ways for Your Mathematical Plays* (Academic, 1982). This popularization of number theory looks like another classic. Though number theory does not lend itself to fun and games, the authors take such joy in the order and patterns of numbers that you can't help being fascinated by what is actually a fairly difficult subject. A combination of clear verbal explanations, wonderfully clever diagrams, and equations (for the real mathematicians) make sometimes complicated numerical concepts accessible to those "without particular mathematical background" (i.e., who are not at least graduate students in mathematics). The material is simplified but not dumbed down. A bridge to understanding and appreciating higher mathematical concepts, this book could appeal to anyone from a mathematically sophisticated high school student to a university mathematics professor.?Amy Brunvand, Univ. of Utah Lib., Salt Lake City
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Review

From the reviews:

"This is a really fascinating book either to read or to browse in, or for reference - there is a good index, and I can strongly recommend it - it should be in every school and college library!" *The Mathematical Gazette*

"... A delightful look at numbers and their roles in everything from language to flowers to the imagination." *Science News*

"... The great feature of the book is that anyone can read it without excessive head scratching ... You'll find plenty here to keep you occupied, amused, and informed. Buy, dip in, wallow." *New Scientist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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