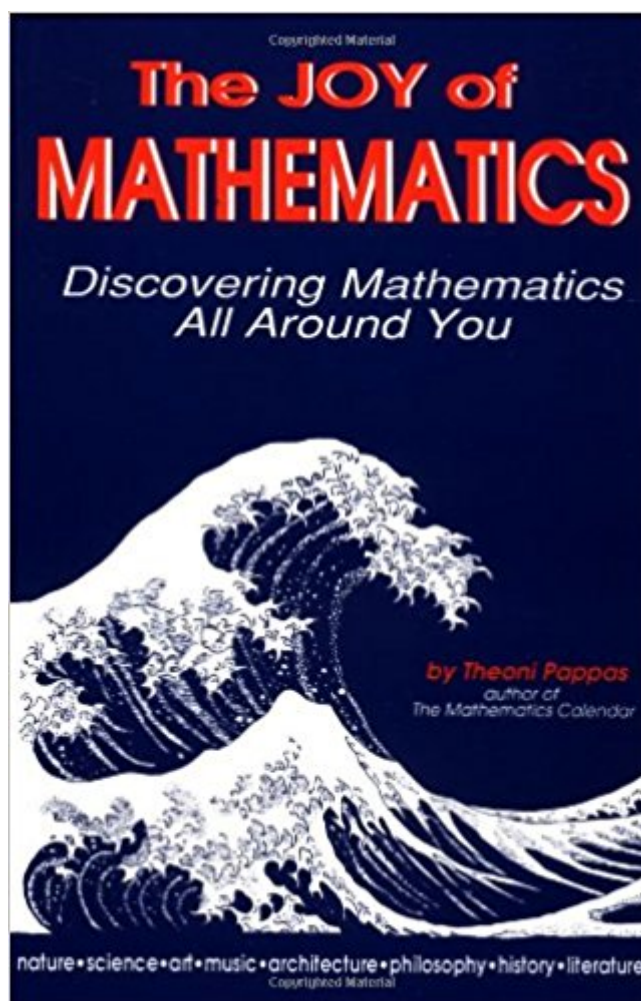


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The Joy Of Mathematics: Discovering Mathematics All Around You



Synopsis

Part of the joy of mathematics is that it is everywhere—in soap bubbles, electricity, da Vinci's masterpieces, even in an ocean wave. Written by the well-known mathematics teacher consultant, this volume's collection of over 200 clearly illustrated mathematical ideas, concepts, puzzles, and games shows where they turn up in the "real" world. You'll find out what a googol is, visit hotel infinity, read a thorny logic problem that was stumping them back in the 8th century. THE JOY OF MATHEMATICS is designed to be opened at random—it's mini essays are self-contained providing the reader with an enjoyable way to explore and experience mathematics at its best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book could have been good if the author had done a careful job of writing the text, and perhaps if the illustrations were original, and above all if the author had understood the material she was writing about. Sadly these are often not the case with this book. Rather, this book gives every sign of being essentially copied from bits of many dozens of other books. All the illustrations appear to be low-quality xerographic copies from other books (clearly used without any permissions). But worst of all, the book is chock full of misstatements, misconceptions, and sentences that don't convey any meaning. This book gives the non-expert reader the impression that he or she is learning something, but a great deal of the time this is just the illusion of learning. I will list a few of the errors and illusory learning that I can readily find: _____ p. 6: The illustration of the cycloid curve should show it to be in a vertical direction where one arch meets another; instead it is at 45 degrees to the vertical. _____ p. 7: It is stated that when marbles are released in a cycloid-shaped container,

they will reach the bottom at the same time. This phenomenon occurs for a bowl whose cross-section is an *inverted* cycloid, but that is omitted. _____p. 13: Both the "impossible tribar" and "Hyzer's optical illusion" are NOT mathematically impossible, contrary to what is written. (They can be constructed in 3 dimensions.) Twistors are mentioned but not defined, even in a rough, metaphoric way -- just not at all. _____p. 18: It is mentioned that pi cannot be the solution of an algebraic equation with integral coefficients, but there is no discussion in the book of what such an equation is. _____p.

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