

Algebra

Muslim scholars of the Abbasid period were very interested in furthering the developments of the ancient Greeks in mathematics. They spent hours trying to stump one another with difficult mathematical puzzles. For fun, they also made “magic boxes” that were grids containing numbers that added up to the same sum horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. The science of algebra as we know it today was introduced by Muslims. The most famous math scholar, Al Khwarazmi (al KWAH rihz mee), introduced algebra to civilization. Algebra comes from the word “al jabr,” which means “the bringing together of separate parts.” In algebra, a mathematician substitutes symbols such as x , y , or z for numbers in order to solve mathematical problems.