**Sources: Wikipedia and The Crest of the Peacock: Non-European Roots of Mathematics (by G.G. Joseph)**

1. When and where do we find humans first using numbers?
   1. 35,000 BC – Swaziland, Africa. A baboon bone with 29 notches.
   2. 30,000 BC – Czechoslovakia, Europe. A wolf bone with 57 notches.
2. When and where were some important kinds of numbers discovered?
   1. Zero
      1. [Ancient Greeks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece) seemed unsure about the status of zero as a number: They asked themselves "How can 'nothing' be something?"
      2. Early use (maybe first): Mayans of south-central Mexico between 400 BC and 40 BC
      3. Early use: India 300s BC
      4. Early use: Mesopotamia 200BC to 100BC
      5. Use in Europe: From India to Arabic world to Europe (1200AD)
   2. Negative Numbers
      1. 100 BC – 50 BC. The [Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) [*Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Chapters_on_the_Mathematical_Art)
      2. During the 600s, negative numbers were in use in [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) to represent debts
      3. The first use of negative numbers in a European work was by [Chuquet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuquet" \o "Chuquet) during the 15th century. But referred to them as "absurd numbers".
      4. Negative solutions to problems were considered "false" and were ignored.
      5. In A.D. 1759, [Francis Maseres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Maseres), an English mathematician, wrote that negative numbers "darken the very whole doctrines of the equations and make dark of the things which are in their nature excessively obvious and simple". He came to the conclusion that negative numbers were nonsensical
   3. Rational Numbers
      1. Probably prehistoric
      2. Oldest recordings: Ancient Egypt, Rhind Papyrus 1650 BC.
3. Are there any other numbers?
   1. Yes! - Irrational numbers
      1. The earliest known use of irrational numbers was in the [Indian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_mathematics) [Sulba Sutras](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulba_Sutras" \o "Sulba Sutras) composed between 800–500 BC.
      2. The first existence proofs of irrational numbers is usually attributed to [Pythagoras](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pythagoras), more specifically to the [Pythagorean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pythagoreanism) [Hippasus of Metapontum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippasus" \o "Hippasus), who produced a (most likely geometrical) proof of the irrationality of the [square root of two](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_root_of_two). The story goes that Hippasus discovered irrational numbers when trying to represent the square root of 2 as a fraction. However Pythagoras believed in the absoluteness of numbers, and could not accept the existence of irrational numbers. He could not disprove their existence through logic, but he could not accept irrational numbers, so he sentenced Hippasus to death by drowning.