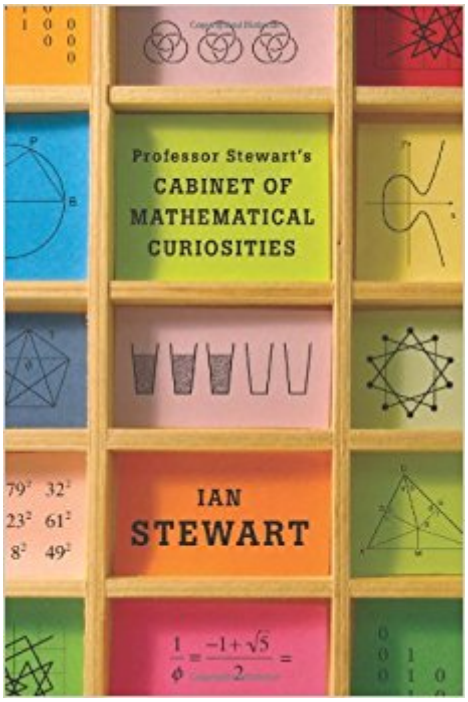
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Professor Stewart's Cabinet Of Mathematical Curiosities



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Knowing that the most exciting math is not taught in school, Professor Ian Stewart has spent years filling his cabinet with intriguing mathematical games, puzzles, stories, and factoids intended for the adventurous mind. This book reveals the most exhilarating oddities from Professor Stewart's legendary cabinet.Inside, you will find hidden gems of logic, geometry, and probability—like how to extract a cherry from a cocktail glass (harder than you think), a pop-up dodecahedron, and the real reason why you can't divide anything by zero. Scattered among these are keys to Fermat's last theorem, the PoincarÃƒÂ© conjecture, chaos theory, and the P=NP problem (you'll win a million dollars if you solve it). You never know what enigmas you'll find in the Stewart cabinet, but they're sure to be clever, mind-expanding, and delightfully fun.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Basic Books (January 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465013023

ISBN-13: 978-0465013029

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #482,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Reference #168 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Math Games

Customer Reviews

For an exceptional reader, this book could mean a million dollars. For among the many doors that Stewart opens into the wonderland of mathematics, one offers a tantalizing perspective on the Riemann hypothesis, a conjecture so rich with implications that philanthropists have offered a million-dollar prize to anyone who can prove it. Of course, armchair mathematicians are not likely to find the path to that money. But they are certain to find pleasure in this cornucopia of puzzles, brainteasers, and digressions. Readers will delight, for instance, in testing their wits against EuclidÃ¢â ¬â„¢s theorems, in enlarging their understanding of geometry by constructing antigravity cones, and in allying themselves with an ancient genius by calculating just how much Archimedes could have moved the earth with his famous fulcrum. But besides inviting his readers to exercise

their gray matter, Stewart initiates them into vertigo-inducing mysteries, including the wild dynamics of chaos and the unearthly beauty of logarithmic spirals. The ideal book for dispelling the supposed drudgery of mathematics with its real magic. --Bryce Christensen

Booklist “[Armchair mathematicians] are certain to find pleasure in this cornucopia of puzzles, brainteasers, and digressions.... The ideal book for dispelling the supposed drudgery of mathematics with its real magic.Ã¢â ¬Â•New Scientist “Stewart has a genius for explanation that allows details of the PoincarÃƒÂ© conjecture and Riemann hypothesis to sit happily alongside a quip about a chicken crossing a MÃƒÂ¶bius strip.... Mathematics doesn't come more entertaining than this.Ã¢â ¬Â•Chicago Tribune “The exciting side of math – puzzles, games and thrilling oddities.Ã¢â ¬Â•Science News “What positive integer is equal to its own Scrabble score when spelled out in full? Stewart...offers this and a hodgepodge of other puzzles, paradoxes, brainteasers, tricks, facts and jokes, which he accurately calls ‘curiosities.'.Ã¢â ¬Â•IEEE Spectrum “Open one of the 179 ‘drawers' in Professor Stewart's cabinet, and you might find just a one-liner...or a seven-page essay on Fermat's last theorem.... The book can be devoured in one giant gulp or savored, one curiosity at a time.Ã¢â ¬Â•

I purchased this book to place in my bathroom for myself and guests to read in that "Crude, I forgot my smart phone" moment on the John. I personally have a bachelor’s degree in math and had high hopes that this book would give a glimpse into many of the fun neat things I learned during my time in school. Although the book does indeed touch on many of the deeply interesting but still accessible topics of higher level math, I found that half of the books just seemed like word problems or brain teasers. These are not inherently bad and I’m sure those with a non math background will really find the book fun and interesting. But on a personal level I am just not a huge fan of the book.

I’m going through college and was just trying to raise my interest in math a bit. The book is broken into little sections with either an interesting fact or a thought exercise/math puzzle, most of these sections you can read or complete within 15min, which makes it fun and has indeed increased my interest in mathematics.

I have this book as a paperback and for the kindle (3). I like the book just fine as a paperback, although, (1) it’s a little larger than books I like to carry to read on trips, and (2) flipping back and

forth from chapters to answers was a bit of a nuisance. I got the kindle version to solve both problems. After all, there would be a link from each chapter to its answers/hints/whatever (and back), right? Wrong. The kindle version just shows you a non-linked word "ANSWER". To get to the relevant answer, sometimes typing in the name of the chapter would work, but often not. The table of contents is not much help either because there are links to each chapter (and back to the contents), but all answers are in one chapter.I wonder how long it would have taken to add these links. An hour or two? It's like the kindle version was prepared by people who had no idea what a kindle could do. Let me know when the competently prepared kindle version is available for free for suckers like me who paid money for it.

Stewart is a great story-teller, and here is in top form. Highly recommended for anyone in IT - he shows you tricks that could come in handy. Even if they don't, you'll still have had a good time, and you can try the stories out on your friends.

There are two Stewart books....at least, and I like them both. I forget, now, which came first, which is easier or harder. Generally these are not for children I'd say, but I've found them to be good for my brain. Feels that way, anyway.

As a 70 something challenging my brain, I find this melange to be fascinating, challenging, and at times overwhelming, but never dull. I do not think Professor Stewart is as adept as the late Isaac Asimov at explaining to a non-mathematician some of the more arcane mathematical principles with which he deals, but that is a quibble. The book is fun and definitely for the curious.

"When I was fourteen years old, I started a notebook. A _math_ notebook." Ian Stewart starts his most recent book this way, and then apologizes for being such a geek. He has written lots of books about serious mathematics, and his new one is serious, too, but it is full of serious fun. _Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities_ (Basic Books) comes from that notebook, and the subsequent notebooks he had to get because more curiosities kept crowding in. He didn't put his school math in the notebooks; he put in all the interesting math that he wasn't taught at school. So in these pages are about two hundred short chapters or essays on what is usually called "recreational math". It's not mathematics you can be tested on, so it's fun. A lot of it does not have to do with numbers; mathematicians may forever be associated with numbers and counting, but it is the logic and the study of patterns that occupies higher math, and a lot of that higher math can be

brought down to earth for entertainment purposes, as Stewart has done here repeatedly. For those who like recreational math books, there will be much that is familiar, like the problem of crossing all the bridges of Konigsberg exactly once, or that of the farmer who has to cross the river with a wolf, a goat and a cabbage, but has room in his boat for only two at a time, and none must get eaten by the others en route. If those don't ring a bell, this is a splendid book to start you on wondering about some entertaining mathematical ideas. If you know the old ones, Stewart has included lots of new puzzles, as well as small biographies of quirky mathematicians through history, and little essays on non-puzzle material like fractals or GÃƒÂ¶del's proof. He has also, at the back of the book, included the answers, in a section labeled, "Professor Stewart's Cunning Crib Sheet: Wherein the discerning or desperate reader may locate answers to those questions that are currently known to possess them... with occasional supplementary facts for their further edification."There are rings on the coat of arms of the Borromeo family, three rings that you cannot pull apart but none of which is linked to another. There is a section on famous mathematicians who aren't famous for being mathematicians. Sure, you knew Lewis Carroll, famous for the _Alice_ books, was a mathematician / logician, but did you know Art Garfunkel got his master's in math, and only stopped work on his PhD so he could pursue his singing career? Bram Stoker, author of _Dracula_, had a mathematics degree. Leon Trotsky had his mathematical career ended by exile to Siberia. There is a section on Fermat's famous Last Theorem and how it was proved fifteen years ago by complicated modern methods. Fermat himself could not have used such methods in the proof he said he had, but he did not write it down because he didn't have enough space in the margin in which he was writing notes. Stewart says that there might be a simpler proof, and while he repeatedly encourages readers to branch out on their own from these problems, he warns them about coming up with proofs for this one, and he also hints at the frustrations of being a public mathematician: "If you think you've found it, _please don't send it to me_. I get too many attempted proofs as it is, and so far - well, just don't get me started, OK?" There is a section on dividing a cake fairly. It's easy with two people - one cuts the cake and the other gets to decide which piece to take. How do you extend this to three people? If you have a block of cheese in cube form, how can you cut it so that the cut face is hexagonal? Why in lists of numerical data, like the areas of each of the fifty states, are the numbers far more likely to start with 1 or 2 rather than 8 or 9? And how can this be true whether the numbers represent square miles, square kilometers, acres, or any other measurement? What shape of road would give a smooth ride to a bicycle with square wheels? A person born in 35 BC died after his birthday in 35 AD; how old was he? (Hint: those ancients could do math, but they didn't have the concept of 0.) What number, spelled out in Scrabble tiles, equals its Scrabble score? This delightful book is a real

miscellany.It also has one characteristic those older recreational math books didn’t have: internet references. When discussing, for instance, John Horton Conway’s fascinating complexity-from-simplicity game Life, Stewart can send the reader to an internet version "which is easy to use and will give hours of pleasure." Some of the references are merely to Wikipedia, but others are to specialty sites, including the extensive Wolfram Mathworld. This would be a wonderful book to give to any young person, especially one who claims not to like math. Stewart may not have a cure for such a condition, but his fine collection of amusements could demonstrate that such abhorrence is at least sometimes misdirected.

I teach a continuing education course for seniors at a local college and I as well as my students enjoy learning the curiosities!

Download to continue reading...

Professor Stewart’s Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities The Art and Craft of Cabinet-Making: A Practical Handbook to the Construction of Cabinet Furniture, the Use of Tools, Formation of Joints, Hints on ... Out Work, Veneering, Etc (Classic Reprint) Guillermo del Toro Cabinet of Curiosities: My Notebooks, Collections, and Other Obsessions Cabinet of Curiosities: Collecting and Understanding the Wonders of the Natural World A Cabinet of Greek Curiosities: Strange Tales and Surprising Facts from the Cradle of Western Civilization Guillermo del Toro’s Cabinet of Curiosities: My Notebooks, Collections, and Other Obsessions Alabama Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Alabama Curiosities, 2nd: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Colorado Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Connecticut Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Connecticut Curiosities, 2nd: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) The Land of Curiosities (Book 2)): Lost in Yellowstone, 1872-1873 (Land of Curiosities (the Ecoseekers Collection)) North Carolina Curiosities, 3rd: Jerry Bledsoe’s Guide to Outlandish Things to See and Do in North Carolina (Curiosities Series) Indiana Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities, and Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Indiana Curiosities, 2nd: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities, and Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Rhode Island Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Kansas Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Iowa Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series) Kentucky Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities

Series) Maine Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities, and Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help