**Year 6 Poster Competition**

New for 2025: Cambridge Maths School (CMS) is challenging your year 6 students to take part in our annual Mathematics Poster Competition.

The Mathematics Poster Competition is intended to stimulate and motivate students, and offers young mathematicians the opportunity to share their love of the subject in an interesting and engaging manner. By taking part, students will develop their ability to communicate and explain mathematics whilst expressing their creativity and developing their mathematical understanding.

The theme for this year’s competition is ‘**the maths of ancient Egypt’.**

*Further details are overleaf.*

The competition is open to students in Year 6. Students may enter as individuals or as part of a small team (maximum of 4 students per team). Schools may enter as many teams as they like. The winner of the Mathematics Poster Competition will receive a mathematical prize.

To take part, please send in completed posters, along with the attached entrance form (one per poster) by **Wednesday 25th June 2025.** Schools will be notified of the result before the end of the summer term.

Completed posters should be sent for the attention of: Poster Competition, Cambridge Maths School, 119 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 2AZ. Alternatively, if you are able to send good quality images, these can be emailed to outreach@cms.tela.org.uk along with entrance form (with ‘Y6 Poster Competition’ as the message subject).

We hope that you will encourage your students to take part – we are certainly looking forward to seeing their work!

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Information for teachers

It’s up to you how you decide to present this to your students, however we have some suggestions that you could try when you introduce it.

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| **The maths of ancient Egypt** |

Students could find out more about one of the following mathematical areas, which the ancient Egyptians developed systems for, and show how they applied this mathematics in everyday life.

* place value, allowing them to represent large numbers
* fractions
* calculations using addition, doubling and halving
* tax calculations
* understanding properties of shapes, for construction and measuring fields
* solving equations

Supporting resources:

**Problem solving activity:** The ancient Egyptians were said to make right-angled triangles using a rope which was knotted to make twelve equal sections. What other triangles could they make with this rope? The Egyptian rope problem combines knowledge of the properties of shapes with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of small numbers. <https://nrich.maths.org/problems/egyptian-rope>

**Problem solving activity:** The ancient Egyptians expressed all fractions as a sum of different unit fractions. These problems offer a chance to explore how they could have written different fractions. <https://nrich.maths.org/problems/egyptian-fractions> or <https://nrich.maths.org/problems/egyptian-fractions-how-many-ways>

**Video:** Tom Rocks Maths: *The Maths of Ancient Egypt: Numbers, Calendars and Geometry in Architecture.* This video looks at the number system of the ancient Egyptians, including the meaning of the hieroglyphs and how they multiplied numbers together. It also explores the calendar, and the architecture of the tombs including the Pyramids. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lX_f5oB83YI>

**Article:** This article explores how algebra was developed in different cultures, including the Rhind Papyrus written in Egypt about 1550 BCE. This may be most suitable for students who require further stretch and challenge. <https://nrich.maths.org/articles/development-algebra-1>

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Information for students

Produce an A3 poster with the title:

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| **The maths of ancient Egypt** |

**Background:**

Between 3000 to 300BCE, the mathematics developed and used in Egypt was practical and focused on real-world applications, such as measuring fields, calculating taxes and determining the area and volume of shapes for construction, particularly for pyramids.

**Task:**

Explore how the ancient Egyptians used or applied mathematics.

Look at the ideas below and decide which area you would like to investigate. Create an A3 poster with what you have discovered.

**Ideas you might like to explore:**

The ancient Egyptians developed systems for:

* place value, allowing them to represent large numbers
* fractions
* calculations using addition, doubling and halving
* understanding properties of shapes
* solving equations

Find out more about one of these mathematical areas and show how the Egyptians used this mathematics.

**Your poster will be given marks for:**

* Mathematical content
* Interesting historical facts
* Creativity
* Originality
* Overall presentation