

Math Mole

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Now the **real** fun begins

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Quote: *The truth knocks on the door and you say, "Go away, I'm looking for the truth," and so it goes away.*

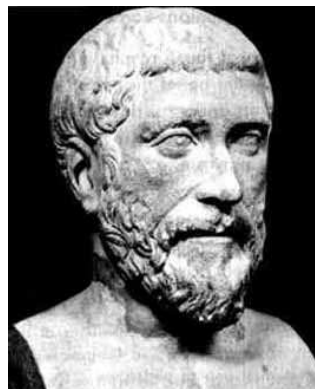
– Robert Pirsig, from *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*.

Puzzles:

Friends: Frank weighs half as much as Bill and Hubert weighs three times as much as Frank. Their combined weight is 720 pounds. How much does each man weigh?

Strange Equivalence: 1 is 3. 3 is 5. 5 is 4. 4 is 4. 7 is 5. 13 is 8. 17 is what?

Mathematician of the Day



Pythagoras of Samos, 569-475 BC (Samos, Ionia)

- Pythagoras was a Greek philosopher who made important contributions in mathematics, astronomy, and the theory of music. He is considered by some to be the first mathematician.
- He created a secret society which was based on both scientific and religious ideas. Its secrecy means that very little is known about him and his work.
- The theorem now known as Pythagoras's theorem was known to the Babylonians 1000 years earlier but he may have been the first to prove it.
- In astronomy Pythagoras taught that the Earth was a sphere at the center of the Universe. He also recognized that the orbit of the Moon was inclined to the equator of the Earth and he was one of the first to realize that Venus as an evening star was the same planet as Venus as a morning star.
- Pythagoras noticed that vibrating strings produce harmonious tones when the ratios of the lengths of the strings are whole numbers, and that these ratios could be extended to other instruments.