



Math Mole

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Test Day, The Sequel

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- Today's Editor: Pranav
- Wednesday: Shashank

Quote: *We may regard the present state of the universe as the effect of its past and the cause of its future. An intellect which at a certain moment would know all forces that set nature in motion, and all positions of all items of which nature is composed, if this intellect were also vast enough to submit these data to analysis, it would embrace in a single formula the movements of the greatest bodies of the universe and those of the tiniest atom; for such an intellect nothing would be uncertain and the future just like the past would be present before its eyes.* – Laplace **Puzzles:**

Age III: Man Wrinkle spent one-fourth of his life as a boy, one-eighth as a youth, and one-half as an active man. If Man Wrinkle spent 9 years as an old man, then how many years did he spend as an active man?

Games: Last vacation, my cousin came over to stay at my home. We made the most of her stay at my place... and I even earned a few chocolates.

Everyday, we would play a game of chess. Whoever lost the game owed a chocolate to the other. After the last game we played (that was the day she was to leave), we counted the number of games each of us had won and lost. Wow! I had won more than her. So, she handed me 10 chocolates... though she herself was the winner in 13 games.

How many days did my cousin spend at my place?

Mathematician of the Day



Pierre-Simon Laplace, 1749-1827, France

- Laplace was the son of a small cottager or perhaps a farm-labourer, and owed his education to the interest excited in some wealthy neighbours by his abilities and engaging presence.
- He went to the University of Caen to study theology, but was mentored by two mathematicians and left to joining d'Alembert in Paris.
- He married Marie-Charlotte de Courty de Romanges in his late thirties and the couple had a daughter, Sophie, and a son, Charles-Émile (b. 1789).
- Laplace completely determined the attraction of a spheroid on a particle outside it. This is memorable for the introduction into analysis of spherical harmonics or Laplace's coefficients, and also for the development of the use of the potential, a name first used by George Green in 1828.
- Laplace saw himself as a scientist who hoped that humanity would progress in a better scientific understanding of the world, which, if and when eventually completed, would still need a tremendous calculating power to compute it all in a single instant.

Info From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre-Simon_Laplace#Early_life