



Adding It Up—Other Numbers

The numbers we use today are based on the Arabic numbers. Look at the chart below to see how the numbers changed over 1,000 years.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

1,000 years ago

800 years ago

600 years ago

today

Everyone doesn't write numbers the same way we do. Take a look at these different number systems.

EGYPTIAN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	100	1,000
									∩	∞	⌚

HINDU-ARABIC

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०

ANCIENT GREEK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ϝ	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι

BABYLONIAN



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
∇	∇∇	∇∇∇	∇∇∇∇	∇∇∇ ∇∇	∇∇∇ ∇∇∇	∇∇∇∇ ∇∇∇	∇∇∇∇∇ ∇∇∇∇	∇∇∇∇∇∇ ∇∇∇∇∇	∇∇∇∇∇∇∇ ∇∇∇∇∇∇



HEBREW



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י



CHINESE



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	100	1,000
一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	百	千



MAYAN



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
•	••	•••	••••	—	—•	—••	—•••	—••••	—•••••
20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200
• —	•• —	••• —	•••• —	— —	—• —	—•• —	—••• —	—•••• —	—••••• —



ROMAN



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	50	100	500	1,000
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	L	C	D	M



Try this:

- Make up your own system. Can you think of a new way to write numbers? Write out the numbers 1 through 20, 50, 100, and 1000.
- Try writing out some different math problems using one of the other writing systems.