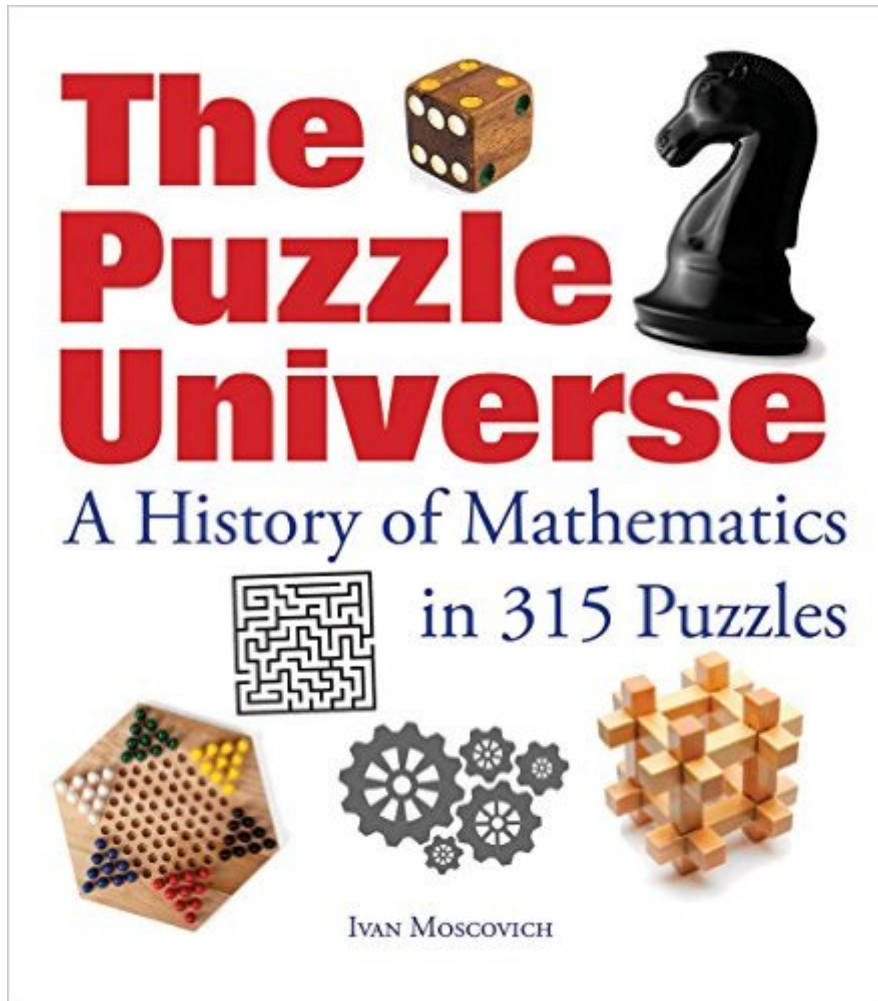


The book was found

The Puzzle Universe: A History Of Mathematics In 315 Puzzles



Synopsis

The Puzzle Universe is intended for general readers and devoted puzzlers. It is about the latent beauty of mathematics, its history, and the puzzles that have advanced and emerged from the science of numbers. It is full of challenging historical facts, thinking puzzles, paradoxes, illusions, and problem solving. There are 315 puzzles in this book. Extended captions explain in easy terms the value of the puzzles for mathematical and educational purposes, particularly in light of the findings of recent research. This historical and pedagogical dimension sets The Puzzle Universe apart from similar books. The puzzles appear in a dynamic layout for a visual experience that is Ivan Moscovich's trademark. There are ten chapters complete with answers. Icons show the challenge rating and the tools needed (pencil, scissors, ruler, and of course, brain) to solve the puzzle. The chapters are: Thinking about Playthings and Your Brain Beginnings, Greek Math, Geometry and The Ahmes' Puzzle Primes, Magic Squares and Queen Dido's Problem Points, Topology and Euler's Seven Bridges Puzzle Knights And Queens, Cutting Cakes and The Mystery of the Pendulum Science, Dimensions, Randomness and The Tower Of Hanoi Puzzle Infinity, Impossible, Mixed Hats and Mixing Tea with Milk Puzzle Paradoxes, Cellular Automata, Hollow Cube and Night Crossing Puzzle Perception, Illusions, Parity and Puzzles about Truth and Lies of Ray Answers. With this book, Ivan Moscovitch invites readers to join him in the puzzle universe, a pleasant environment of creative discovery, problem solving, fun and enjoyment.

Book Information

Age Range: 8 and up

Hardcover: 396 pages

Publisher: Firefly Books (October 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1770854754

ISBN-13: 978-1770854758

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 1.1 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #226,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in [Books > Humor &](#)

[Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Math Games](#) #141 in [Books > Science & Math > Physics >](#)

[Mathematical Physics](#) #209 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > History](#)

Customer Reviews

*****I was unexpectedly surprised about many things in The Puzzle Universe! First of all, it is not just a book of puzzles. I thought it might be this, although subtitle of "A History of Mathematics" intrigued me. Instead it is a book that combines fun and visually fascinating puzzles with the history of mathematics and stories about mathematicians, discoveries, applications of ideas, etc. I cannot think of anyone who would not find something to like about this book. The second thing that surprised me is that it is a large gift quality coffee table book with top-of-the-line heavy glossy pages with brilliant colors. I can't think of a mathematics book or a puzzle book I've seen that was so beautiful. Third, the subject of the book is actually more about CREATIVITY than it is about anything else. The reader learns principles of creativity by actually working the games, puzzles, problems, and brain twisters. The author calls it "PlayThink". He writes: "A PlayThink may be a visual challenge, riddle, or puzzle; it may be a toy, game or illusion; it may be an art object, a conversation piece or a three-dimensional structure...a PlayThink will ideal transfer you to a state of mind where thinking, pure play and problem solving coexist for the betterment of your brain." It is truly fun learning that stimulates creativity. So I would buy this book not only for friends who were nerds or math geeks but who were artists and writers and who love creativity. Any who is curious or creative! I don't think that younger children would enjoy this book unless they were quite bright and highly verbal (the writing style is more sophisticated than a children's book)...I would think that the book would be better for teenagers and above.

Former fans of the late Martin Gardner's "Mathematical Games" column in Scientific American, or the many books he compiled from it, will love this book. Not merely a collection of puzzles, it is a handsome coffee-table book of 400 pages, gloriously illustrated (although the drawings are less consistent in quality than the photographs). The puzzles, too, are varied and fun. Any fan of the genre will certainly find several that are familiar, but probably as many that are not. Ivan Moscovich, the author, has a neat way of saying "I know you can do that one, but can you solve THIS?" and coming up with some variation that adds an extra twist to a familiar idea, making you think a little more about the underlying principle as you do so. For that is the point of the book: not the puzzles, but the ideas behind them. Subtitled "A History of Mathematics in 315 Puzzles," it is laid out chronologically from Pythagoras through Pascal to Penrose and beyond. As expected, the subjects run roughly from astronomy and geometry in the earlier periods, through number theory and physics, to topology and combinatorics. But while keeping a chronological flow, Moscovich also manages to organize his work into eight chapters, each focusing on one particular area of interest. All through the book, he will introduce interesting people: Queen Dido of Carthage, the Jewish

historian Josephus, and Leonardo of Pisa (more commonly called Fibonacci), all the way to the mathematical painters Antonio Peticov and Teja Krasek. After so much head-scratching, it is a pleasure to end the book with four pages devoted to their work that are beautiful to look at.[Talking about the ending, though, raises some small quibbles.

This review is written from the perspective of someone who has never purchased a book of this genre before, and who was not familiar with the author before being introduced to this book. The Puzzle Universe is a standout book in a number of ways. First, it is an attractive coffee table or display shelf book that looks interesting and fun enough to entice most anyone with a bit of intellectual curiosity to pick it up. Once opened, it's contents invite you to browse and explore what is within. It's colorful and intriguing looking graphics, illustrations and interesting tidbits of information are easily consumed in random bite-sized morsels if so chosen. Those inclined to go through this like a text book from beginning to end will find a chronological journey through "A History of Mathematics", with puzzles of various challenges at each stop along the way. This book takes a subject which some (or even many) may consider or think to be boring and dry and presents in one of the most interesting and interactive ways that I can imagine. Anyone who enjoys mental stimulation or a "brain workout" will love this book, however it goes deeper by offering a peek into the subject in which each puzzle's principles lie. These are not meant to be comprehensive studies by any means, just glimpses (hors d'oeuvres, if you will). After introducing us to the importance of creativity as it relates to intelligence and achievement, the first chapter attempts to get the reader into a mode of creative or "outside of the box" thinking. It does this with it's first few simple puzzles (one of which will have you on a date with Julia Roberts). This chapter also covers puzzle basics and features a couple dozen classic thinking puzzles.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Puzzle Universe: A History of Mathematics in 315 Puzzles The Best Large Print Word Search Puzzle Book: A Collection of 50 Themed Word Search Puzzles; Great for Adults and for Kids! (The Best Large Print Word Search Puzzle Books) (Volume 1) The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The Jew in the Medieval World: A Sourcebook, 315-1791 THE FOUR SEASONS CONCERTOS STUDY SCORE OP. 8/1-4 RV 269 315 293 297 Simon and Schuster Super Crossword Puzzle Book #13: The Biggest and the Best (Simon and Schuster's Super Crossword Puzzle Books) New York Times Crossword Puzzle Dictionary (2nd ed) (Puzzle Reference) The Must Have 2016 Sudoku Puzzle Book: 366 puzzle daily sudoku book for the leap

year. A challenge for every day of the year. 366 Sudoku Games - 5 levels of difficulty (easy to hard)
Simon & Schuster Mega Crossword Puzzle Book #1 (Mega Crossword Puzzle Books) Simon &
Schuster Mega Crossword Puzzle Book #4 (Simon & Schuster Mega Crossword Puzzle Books)
Large Print Word Search Puzzle Book (Word Search Puzzle Books For Adults) (Volume 1)
Spanish-English Word Puzzle Book: 14 Fun Spanish and English Word Games (Bilingual Word
Puzzle Books) (Spanish Edition) Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Volume 2 (Official
Handbook to the Marvel Universe a to Z) New Wood Puzzle Designs: A Guide to the Construction of
Both New and Historic Puzzles The Puzzle Instinct: The Meaning of Puzzles in Human Life Ultimate
Mind Games: With Over 400 Puzzles (Puzzle Books) The New York Times Easy Crossword Puzzle
Omnibus Volume 12: 200 Solvable Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times The New York
Times Tuesday Crossword Puzzle Omnibus: 200 Easy Puzzles from the Pages of The New York
Times The New York Times Easy Crossword Puzzle Omnibus Volume 11: 200 Solvable Puzzles
from the Pages of The New York Times The New York Times Crossword Puzzle Dictionary, Third
Edition (Puzzles & Games Reference Guides)

[Dmca](#)