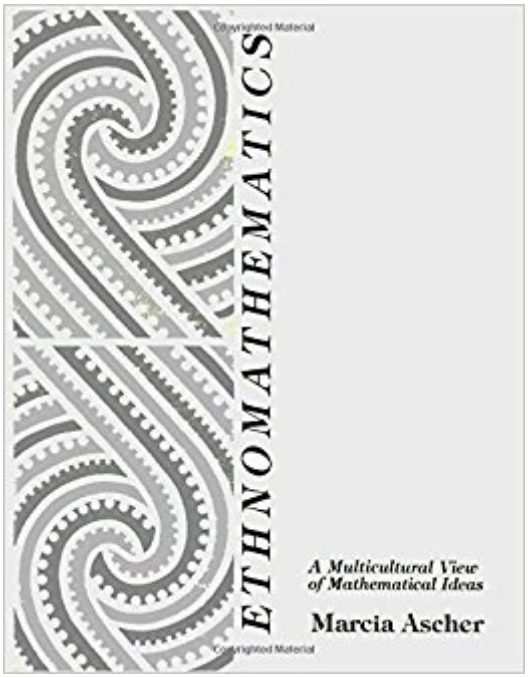
# Ethnomathematics: A Multicultural View Of Mathematical Ideas



## Synopsis

In this truly one-of-a-kind book, Ascher introduces the mathematical ideas of people in traditional, or "small-scale", cultures often omitted from discussion of mathematics. Topics such as "Numbers: Words and Symbols", "Tracing Graphs in the Sand", "The Logic of Kin Relations", "Chance and Strategy in Games and Puzzles", and "The Organization and Modeling of Space" are traced in various cultures including the Inuit, Navajo, and Iroquois of North America; the Inca of South America; the Malekula, Warlpiri, Maori, and Caroline Islanders of Oceania, and the Tshokwe, Bushoong, and Kpelle of Africa.As Ascher explores mathematical ideas involving numbers, logic, spatial configuration, and the organization of these into systems and structures, readers gain both a broader understanding and anappreciation for the idease of other peoples.

## Book Information

Paperback: 214 pages
Publisher: Chapman and Hall/CRC; 1 edition (May 3, 1994)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0412989417
ISBN-13: 978-0412989414
Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #801,657 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #134 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Geometry & Topology > Algebraic Geometry #181 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Reference #476 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics > Geometry

## Customer Reviews

"A splendid book, well worth reading, using in courses and loaning to friends who think they don’t like mathematics." -Mathematics Magazine

For school study in Historical mathematics

This is the best book on ethnomathematics I’ve read. It covers the whole range of main topics on the historic, cultural and epistemic issues about mathematic. Highly recommended!!!!

Very interesting book. Draws the reader in and keeps it interesting. It worked well for my research paper, but would also be good for light reading.

This book has two goals: one is defining the field of ``ethnomathematics'', the second is legitimizing the field by giving examples of what it might cover. This is more anthropology than mathematics, but would still appeal to a fan of Martin Gardner.Memorable topics: the Inuit view of space, a sort of ethnotopology; navigation among the Polynesian islanders (how *do* they steer those tiny boats across five hundred miles of open ocean and arrive at an island a half-mile across? --- this chapter is simply amazing!); deciphering the code of the quipu (the knotted strings that formed the accounting records of the Incan Empire).

Standalone book