**Mathematics**

The Greeks loved reasoning, or looking for logical answers to nature’s mysteries. Greek scientists often found those answers in the field of mathematics.

One such scientist, Pythagoras (pih-THAG-er-uhs), believed that numbers were the key to understanding nature. He started a school where students developed mathematical **theories [theories: a proposed explanation for something]**.

Like many Greeks, Pythagoras was especially fascinated by **geometry [geometry: the branch of mathematics involving points, lines, planes, and figures]**. *Geometry* comes from a Greek word that means “to measure land.” Geometry began as a system for measuring areas of land. The Egyptians could also measure shapes and spaces, but the Greeks created new and improved methods. Using geometry, they could figure out problems such as how much seed to buy for planting a field or how to lay out a city.

Another famous Greek mathematician was Euclid (YOOklid). His geometry textbook has been used as the basis for the teaching of geometry for more than 2,000 years.

Greek culture produced the first woman to earn fame as a mathematician, Hypatia (hie-PAY-shuh). Born in Egypt in about 370 C.E., she taught Greek philosophy and mathematics in the city of Alexandria.