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Math in Ancient India (circa 5000 B.C.E.)

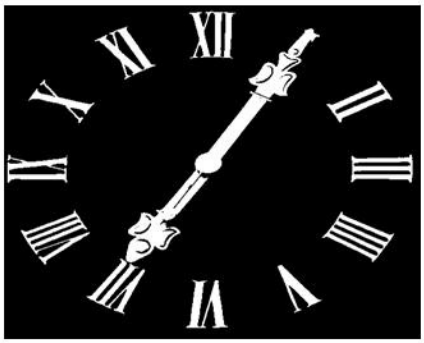
People of ancient India discovered many of the basics of our **mathematical system**. They began using **Brahmi numerals** by 300 C.E., which form the basis of modern numbers (**0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**).

The concept of **zero** was an important discovery because it allowed people to think beyond only **positive numbers** and into **negative num**bers. They came to the realization of a "zero" because of the Hindu and Buddhist Hindu and Buddhist philosophy of a void where which spiritual enlightenment occurs.

The **ancient Roman numeral system** is based on an even older numbering system called **Etruscan numerals**.

These were similar to the Roman form in that all numbers were represented by letters, some of which come from the **Greek alphabet**.

Roman Numerals



Brahmagupta was the most influential mathematician of his time, and he wrote The Opening of the Universe in 598 C.E. Many of his ideas were accepted and expanded upon by Muslims who conquered parts of India in later centuries.

The Indians also had their own unit of measurement which we call the "**Indus Inch**." It was equivalent to **1.32 inches**, and was used as a **standard measurement to build advanced sewer systems and buildings.**

Indians invented the **base-10 system of numbers**. This is the system we use today, and it is much simpler than the base-20 or base-60 systems used in other parts of the world.

They also understood **algebra**, which moved them to greater mathematical achievements such as **algorithms**. **Al Khwarazi**, a great Indian mathematician,