

HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS IN MATH EDUCATION

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Looking at the history of mathematics shows that mathematics has changed over time. Not just in scope or because new theorems were proven, but also concepts changed, new questions were asked, notations changed and allowed for new thoughts, etc. And we see clearly that mathematics, of course, has been developed by human beings just like ourselves, who also struggled with ideas that were sometimes difficult to grasp or accept. In math class we usually don't see these developments: mathematics appears as a finished subject and students need books and teachers to tell them how it should be done. However, showing how and why mathematics was done in earlier times may give both high school students and teachers in training a broader perspective on the field they study or teach. In this lecture Jeanine Daems will talk about the courses in history of mathematics she teaches to trainee math teachers, and she will show and discuss some examples of worksheets and primary sources that can be used in math class.