

Algebra Essentials and Applications Internet Activity


ME1 Egyptian Math Investigations

1. What number is represented by the following?



2. What number is represented by the following?



Fractions were an essential part of Egyptian mathematics. Egyptians wrote fractions with a numerator “1” using the symbol for “mouth:” 

The denominator of the fraction is given by one of the other hieroglyphs.

3. What fraction is represented by the following?



4. What fraction is represented by the following?



Addition was performed by writing the two numbers together and collecting similar symbols. Whenever there were ten of one kind of symbol, one of the next higher symbols replaced it.

5. First, re-write the numbers below in modern form. Then find their sum. Write the answer in both ancient Egyptian and modern forms.



To subtract one number from another, one took away symbols from the number. If there were not enough of one symbol for the subtraction, one of the next higher symbols was replaced by ten of the lower.

6. First, re-write the numbers below in modern form. Then subtract the second number from the first. Write the answer in both ancient Egyptian and modern forms.



7. Answer problems 1–4 at the “Mathematics Problems” site.
