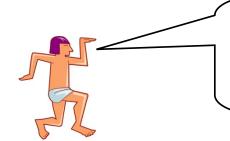# Multiply the Egyptian way
Maths worksheets from mathsblog.co.uk

The great Egyptian civilisation used a very different method to work out multiplication calculations. Rather than learning tables, they just got very good at adding up (or doubling as we know it today).

This is how they did it.   Let's look at 29 x 58 which is quite a hard example to show you.

29	59
1	59
2	118
4	236
8	472
16	944

Start by writing 1 in the left hand column and 59 in the right hand column.

Then add 1 to itself (2) and 59 to itself, which is 118, and write these underneath.

Then add 2 to itself (4) and 118 to itself (236).

Then add 4 to itself (8) and 236 to itself (472).

Then add 8 to itself (16) and 472 to itself (944).

Since 16 + 16 = 32 which is larger than 29 we do not need to go any further.

29	59
1	59
2	118
4	236
8	472
16	944

Now look to see how 29 can be made up from the numbers in the left hand column.

Start by adding 16 and 8 which is 24. Then add 4 which is 28 and then add 1, making 29.

29 = 16 + 8 + 4 + 1

Check the numbers on the right hand side which correspond to 16, 8, 4 and 1. These numbers are 944, 472, 236 and 59.

Just add them together!

29 x 59 is 1711.

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  944
  472
  236
+  59
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 1711
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This was quite a hard example. On the next page are some much easier ones for you to try!

Hello again. I have started the first one for you. Good luck.

1. 13 x 21

13	21
1	21
2	42
4	☐
8	☐

13 = 8 + 4 + ☐

☐
☐
+ | 2 1

Answer: _____

2. 15 x 18

15	18
1	18
2	36
4	☐
8	☐

15 = 8 + 4 + ☐ + ☐

☐
☐
☐
+ | 18

Answer: _____

3. Now try 24 x 14 using the Egyptian method.

4. Now try 25 x 30 using the Egyptian method.

Answers

1. 13 x 21

13	21
1	21
2	42
4	84
8	168

$13 = 8 + 4 + \boxed{1}$

1 6 8
8 4
2 1

\+

Answer: 2 7 3

2. 15 x 18

15	18
1	18
2	36
4	72
8	144

$15 = 8 + 4 + \boxed{2} + \boxed{1}$

1 4 4
7 2
3 6
1 8

\+

Answer: 2 7 0

3. 336   4. 750