Mathematician Summaries

Purpose: To research contributions made in mathematics by various individuals throughout history.

You have been assigned two different mathematicians to research. The list of assigned mathematicians can be found in the Syllabus & Content link of the course homepage.

There are two parts to this assignment. For Part 1 you will write your summaries and upload it to the appropriate Mathematician Dropbox. For Part 2 you will post your summaries in the appropriate Mathematician Discussion.

Part 1, Dropbox:

For each assigned mathematician you will write a summary including the following information:

- Birth date and location
- Current location if the mathematician is still living or; for deceased mathematicians, include the death date and location.
- Age at death or current age if the mathematician is still living
- Two (2) paragraphs summarizing the mathematician’s contribution to mathematics or how mathematics impacted their work. The two paragraphs together must total a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Cite sources of information. **One source must be from the following list. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.**
- Required sources (must use at least one of the following)
  - [http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/index.html](http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/index.html)
  - [http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm](http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm)
  - [http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/](http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/)

The summary must be saved as a Word document, pdf or rtf and uploaded to the Mathematician Dropbox to check for originality.

Grading Criteria for Mathematician Dropbox

To earn the full 10 points for this assignment, you must complete each of the following tasks in the Mathematician Dropbox:

1. Upload your document to Mathematician 1 Dropbox. One point will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.
2. Include all the required components.
3. Follow the format used in the Model Summary on the following page.
4. Originality report should show no more than 15% matching text.
MODEL SUMMARY – Please follow this format.

Panini

Born: about 520 BC in Shalatula, now Pakistan

Died: about 460 BC in India

Approximate age at death was 60.

While he was not a mathematician, his work in developing grammatical rules for the highly structured Sanskrit language is considered to be a foundation for the way Indian mathematics developed. Sanskrit is the formal language of the Indian Hindus. Panini’s major work, Astadhyayi, gave formal rules and definitions for Sanskrit grammar.

Historians attribute the development of the algebraic structure of Indian mathematics to the use of the highly structured Sanskrit language. Since Indian scholars were familiar with a structured language they were inclined to develop structure in their mathematics as well. Panini’s work led more modern scholars to develop language theory which then led to the development of computer languages.

Source:


Please note that what is written here is paraphrased from the source and not copied.

DO NOT CITE WIKIPEDIA AS A SOURCE.
Part 2, Discussion:

After you upload your summary to the appropriate Mathematician Dropbox you may need to revise your work before you post your summary in the appropriate Mathematician Discussion.

To copy and paste your summary:
1. Click Compose in the appropriate Discussion and select the Advanced tab.
   a. If you are copying from Word, click the clipboard labeled W and follow the directions.
   b. If you are copying from another document, click the clipboard labeled T and follow the directions.
2. Review and edit the formatting before you click Post.

Up to 5 points will be deducted for assignments posted after the due date. Late summaries will be accepted up to one week past the due date. No summaries will be accepted after one week past the due dates.

You will need to read the summaries posted by other students. After reading the summaries, you will complete an assignment ranking the mathematicians in each discussion. Instructions for the two ranking assignments will be posted after the Mathematician discussion forum is due.

Each summary is worth 25 points. The points are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follows format provided in the Model Summary</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes dates of birth and death along with locations and age at death, if deceased</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides information on the significance of each mathematician's contribution to mathematics or how mathematics impacted their work.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cites at least one source for your information. Internet sources should be higher education sites or professional organization sites. Check the links in the course homepage and the links listed below for the required sites.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Internet resources on the history of mathematics
http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/index.html
http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm
http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/

**Wikipedia is not an acceptable site. Using Wikipedia as a source will cost you 3 points.**