

A “Short” List: Recommended Books to Aid and Enrich the Study of Arithmetic

I am often asked, “What curriculum should I use for elementary arithmetic, K-6?” My answer, “I cannot wholeheartedly recommend any specific curriculum because each has its strengths and weaknesses. Hence, there will always be tradeoffs.” I am endeavoring to hopefully publish a textbook on arithmetic, starting from the arithmetic of whole numbers and ending with the arithmetic of complex numbers. Of course, there will be a “whole lot” in-between, including geometry, measurement, the history of units. I will also introduce a new and systematized approach to the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division algorithms. See Edward Stoddard’s book in this list for an exposition of these fascinating methods. Below is a short-list of books and resources that will enrich your teaching of arithmetic.

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- [A Measure of Everything: An Illustrated Guide to the Science of Measurement](#), by Christopher Joseph (general editor)
- [Agnesi to Zeno: Over 100 Vignettes from the History of Math](#), by Sanderson Smith
- [Arithmetic for Parents](#), by Ron Aharoni **(A Must Read!!)**
- Beyond Numbers: A Practical Guide to Teaching Math Biblically and Revealing Arithmetic: Math Concepts from a Biblical Worldview by [Katherine Loop](#) **(The first book analyzes specific curricula)**
- [Culinary Math](#), by Linda Blocker and Julia Hill
- [Doing Simple Math in Your Head](#), by W. J. Howard **(Essential!)**
- [Exploring the World of Mathematics](#), by John Hudson Tiner
- Get all the books published by [Stokes Publishing](#).
- Get all the books written by [Theoni Pappas](#).
- [Go Figure! Using Math to Answer Everyday Imponderables](#), by Clint Brookhart
- [Historical Connections in Mathematics](#) (3 volumes), by Luetta and Wilbert Reimer (Wilbert Reimer was my high school mathematics teacher in the mid-1960s)
- [Infinity in Your Pocket](#), by Mike Flynn
- [Key to ...](#) Workbook series on basic arithmetic by Key Curriculum Press
- [Math for Meds](#), by Anna Curren and Laurie Munday **(Try to get the 7th edition)**
- [Math Wonders to Inspire Teachers and Students](#), by Alfred S. Posamentier
- [Mathematicians are People, Too: Stories from the Lives of Great Mathematicians](#), by Luetta and Wilbert Reimer **(Excellent!)**
- [Mathematics in Everyday Things](#), by William Vergara
- [Science: The Never-Ending Quest](#), by William Vergara
- [Speed Mathematics](#), by Bill Handley
- [Speed Mathematics Simplified](#), by Edward Stoddard

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- [Strength in Numbers: Discovering the Joy and Power of Mathematics in Everyday Life](#), by Sherman K. Stein
- [The Divine Proportion](#), by H. E. Huntley
- [The \(Fabulous\) Fibonacci Numbers](#), by Alfred S. Posamentier and Ingmar Lehmann
- [The Language of Mathematics](#), by Frank Land (**Out of print and rare ... a worthy find**)
- [The Math Teacher's Book of Lists](#), by Judith A. and Gary R. Muschla
- [The Math of Money](#), by Morton D. Davis
- [The Nothing that is: A Natural History of Zero](#), by Robert Kaplan
- [The Pleasures of Pi,e and Other Interesting Numbers](#), by Y E O Adrian
- [Weights, Money and Other Measures Used by Our Ancestors](#), by Colin R. Chapman
- [Zero: The Biography of A Dangerous Idea](#), by Charles Seife