

Math History for Precalculus

Abraham De Moivre

1. When did Abraham De Moivre (duh MWAHV ruh) live? *1667–1754*
2. Where was he born? *France (Vitry)*
3. What was his religion? *He was a French Huguenot.*
4. Where did he spend most of his life? *England*
5. Why did he go there? *The king revoked the Edict of Nantes.*
6. Most famous mathematicians became professors at universities. How did De Moivre support himself? *tutoring mathematics*
7. In this chapter you studied De Moivre's Theorem. He first expressed this theorem in its square root format. In what book did he publish this theorem? *Miscellanea Analytica*
8. When was his theorem published? *1730*
9. His most famous work discussed probability. What was this volume that was based on a lengthy earlier article? *Doctrine of Chances*
10. When was this published? *1718*
11. One portion of this famous book had many applications to annuities and insurance. Because of its usefulness it was often published separately. What was this work? *Annuities upon Lives*

De Moivre's study of $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$ set the stage for work on the bell curve, another important concept in probability.

12. Give the strange story about his death. *He said he needed a quarter hour more sleep each night than the preceding one. Eventually, he surpassed 23 hours of sleep. The next time he retired, he slept 24 hours and died.*