

Math History for Precalculus

Abraham De Moivre

1. When did Abraham De Moivre (duh MWAHV ruh) live?
2. Where was he born?
3. What was his religion?
4. Where did he spend most of his life?
5. Why did he go there?
6. Most famous mathematicians became professors at universities. How did De Moivre support himself?
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?
8. When was his theorem published?
9. His most famous work discussed probability. What was this volume that was based on a lengthy earlier article?
10. When was this published?
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?

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.