

Women and Mathematics



Un portrait imaginaire d'Hypathie d'Alexandrie

Hypatia of Alexandria.

Mathematician and philosopher, her father, curator of the Museum of Alexandria, passed her on the passion for Maths. She was **head of the School of Alexandria at the beginning of the 5th century** and she also taught there. She wrote a critical edition of Euclid's "Elements" which became a reference until the 19th century.

Sophie Germain was born in 1776.

At that time, it was unheard of for a woman to study Maths. So to get into the prestigious Polytechnic School, she dressed up as a man and called herself Mr. Leblanc. That way, she was able to write several mathematical works on Fermat's theorem, as well as on prime numbers.

Her work was finally acknowledged and she became **the first woman ever to attend the Science Academy lectures.**



Emmy Noether was born in 1882 in Germany.



She is the daughter of a mathematician. She became a **Doctor of Mathematics**. But, she was not allowed to teach at the University. So she helped her father in his research. Professor Hilbert was the only one who helped her further her career in spite of the scientists' scepticism. They eventually let her **teach at the University but she received no salary** and had to give lessons in Hilbert's name.

Attitudes gradually evolved and she got to take **her habilitation in 1922**.

Much of her work was dedicated to abstract algebra. Her courses became famous and attracted numerous students while many of her contributions were passed on via oral presentations.

Maryam Mirzakhani

first woman to win the Fields Medal

