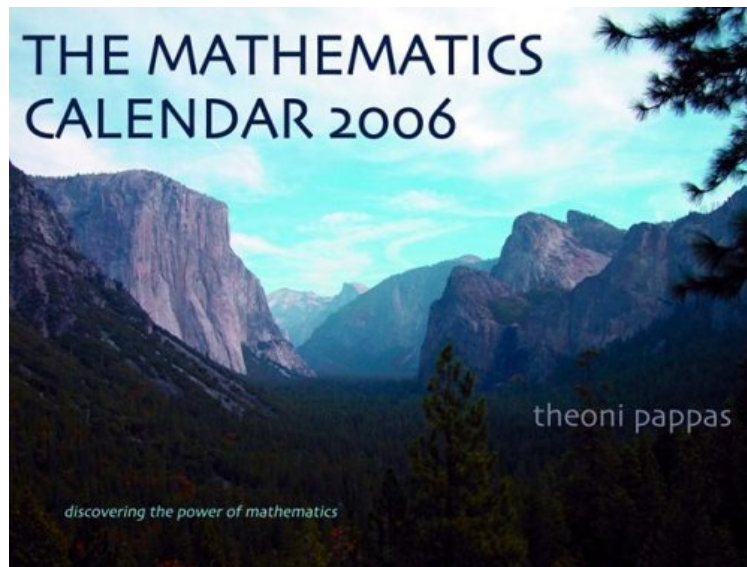


The Mathematics Calendar 2006

Theoni Pappas

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Theoni Pappas : The Mathematics Calendar 2006 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mathematics Calendar 2006:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. calendarBy straight A GPA This calendar was difficult to find. It made an awesome gift to a math instructor. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Ryan H Lewis This is a great product, very interesting mathematical problems on every day. I'm not sure why each problem does not correspond to the day of the year, maybe you need to convert the day to another number as well. The calendar requires knowledge of multiple number systems as well as a wide range of mathematical topics. Granted not all of them can be accomplished by an American ten year old, but certainly some can if the reader is apt enough. The calendar is not trivia, but it instead requires a wide knowledge of math, which makes this product ideal for college math majors, and professors. Great product! 35 of 41 people found the following review helpful. A great idea, poorly executed By Ironblayde If you're like me and think that mathematics is great fun, then the idea of having a calendar with a new problem for each day probably sounds pretty intriguing. Indeed, this could be a great product if done well. But the calendar has several shortcomings. For one, many (most?) of the problems test knowledge rather than intelligence. For example, one problem shows a subtraction problem with one number written in Mayan numerals and the other written in Chinese. Now, if you recognize Mayan and Chinese numbers, this problem requires no thought whatsoever. If you don't, no amount of puzzling will avail you. Another asks, "If 100 quadrillion is written in scientific notation, you get $10^?$?" This is the same sort of thing. Mathematics should be about reasoning, not trivia. Particularly when each problem has the date as its solution, meaning that questions like the last are more statements of fact than questions. My other problem with it is that it isn't presented very well. There's a lack of consistency in its formatting that suggests that it was thrown together somewhat haphazardly, and it's littered with typographical and mathematical errors. The question for January 19, for example, asks the reader to translate the hexadecimal number F4 into decimal. Aside from fitting my earlier complaint about this being a mere trivia question, anyone who knows hex will tell you

that the answer is 244, not 19. The calendar has a page of errata buried on the publisher's atrociously bad website, but really, this is the sort of thing that should have been spotted instantly -- BEFORE the product went into circulation. Looking around at some of Pappas' other products, many reviews seem to complain that they reflect a very low editorial standard, and I think this is the case with the 2006 Mathematics Calendar too. It's a great idea and does have a few interesting problems in it, but for the most part it's a disappointment. Stay away from this one.

Twenty-seven years after its inception, The Mathematics Calendar continues to inspire and intrigue teachers, students, math buffs, and puzzle lovers. Topics this year include how biomathematics works with the human genome, the math behind the elevator to space, goofs by famous mathematicians, and more. Each day of every month has an ingenious feature: a problem whose solution is the date! The challenge lies in figuring out how to arrive there, possibly by more than one method. The wealth of fun facts, puzzles, and snappy graphics make this calendar entertaining every day of the year.