

Ancient Greek numbers

The ancient Greeks used a different number system from ours.

They used these symbols for the numbers 1 to 10.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| A | B | Γ | Δ | E | F | Z | H | Θ | I |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

They had no symbol for zero and they had different symbols for the tens numbers.
For example:

N is the symbol for 50, and

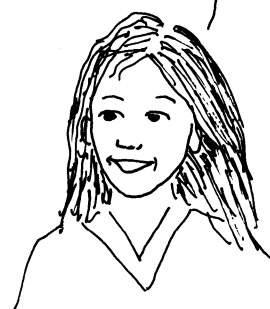
Π is the symbol for 80.

This made adding and subtracting very hard.

Write the Greek numbers for 11–19, 50–59 and 80–89.

Do you think the order of the symbols mattered?

It does matter for our symbols. 31 is not the same as 13.



EXTRA!

Investigate some facts about Greek, Roman or Egyptian numbers. Find out where the symbol for zero came from.