

An Ancient Multiplication Method



Over 4,000 years ago, the Egyptians developed one of the earliest multiplication methods. This method, with some modifications, was then used by the ancient Greeks, and in the Middle Ages, by people living in other parts of Europe.

Study the examples of the Egyptian method below. Each problem has been solved by this method of multiplication. Try to figure out how the method works.

13 * 25 = 325	18 * 17 = 306	26 * 31 = 806
✓ / 25 (1 * 25)	//7	/ 3/
2 50 (2 * 25)	√ 2 34 4 68	√ 2 62 4 124
√ 4 /00 (4 * 25)	8 /36	√ 8 248
$\sqrt{8}$ $\frac{200}{325}$ $(8 * 25)$ $(13 * 25)$	√ 16 <u>272</u> 306	√ 16 <u>496</u> 806

Make up a multiplication problem. Solve it using the Egyptian method. Then explain how the method works, using your problem as an example.

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