

# Babylonian Maths

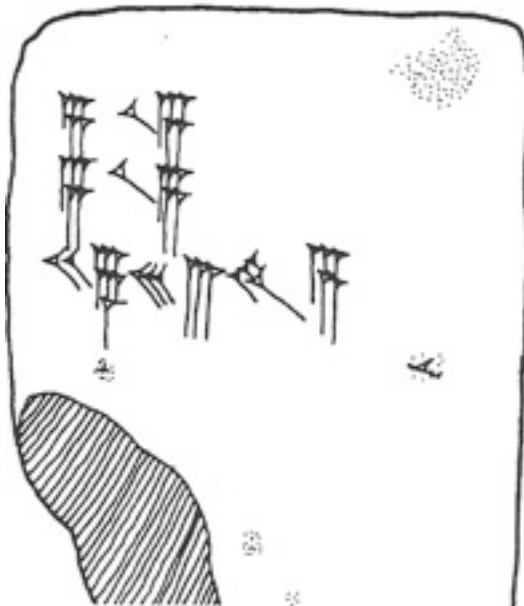


## Deciphering a Babylonian Tablet

These are drawings of two Babylonian tablets. They are about 4000 years old.

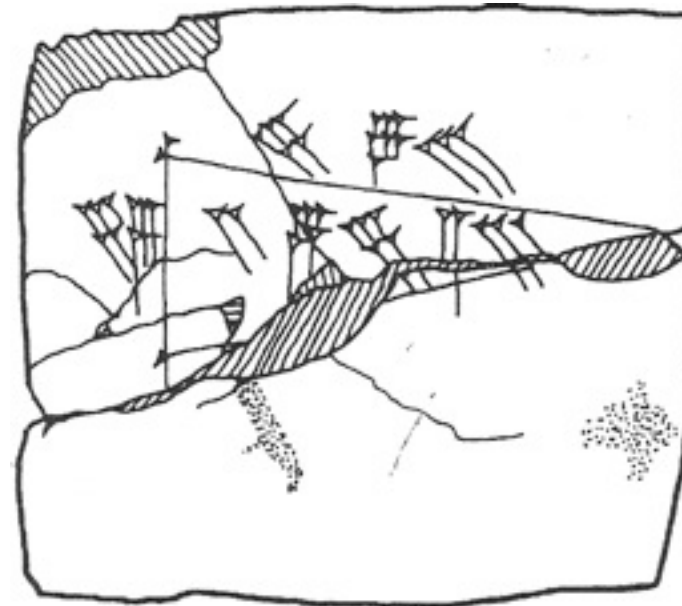
Can you work out what the numbers are?

What do you think the problems that the scribes were working on might have been? Did they get them right?



CBS 7265 from Penn Museum, published in E. Robson, "Mathematical Cuneiform Tablets in Philadelphia", SCIAMVS 1 (2000): 24 fig. 5

The numbers on this tablet are whole numbers.



UM 29-15-709 from Penn Museum, published in E. Robson, "Mathematical Cuneiform Tablets in Philadelphia", SCIAMVS 1 (2000): 29 fig. 13

This tablet shows a right-angled triangle (Babylonian style) with numbers on the two perpendicular sides.

The number above the triangle is a whole number and a fraction part, where the number on the left of the triangle is a whole number.

## Babylonian Maths: Deciphering a Babylonian tablet

<http://motivate.maths.org/content/BabylonianMaths>

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