

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

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Fire**

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2 Resource Manuals, "A World To Discover" All About Magnets, For Science Educators.

Each manual has 10 chapters with each chapter covering a specific concept. Beginning with: What is a magnet, to teaching how they attract, how the poles differ, etc. Fully illustrated, each section is written as a lesson plan with: Things to learn, How to begin, What to do, How to end, and More things to do. By Dowling Magnetics Corp. Softcover, 28 pages each.

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Standout E, alphabet eye chart NA52,517 \$7.95
Recognizable shapes eye chart, circles, hearts, stars, etc. NA52,518 \$7.95

Instant Lead Testing Kit, Results In Minutes.

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NA9301 \$13.95

"333 Science Tricks And Experiments"

Science students will find ideas for projects involving basic scientific principles, including inertia, gravity, magnetism and the mysteries of chemistry in this well illustrated book. 208 pages, by Robert Brown—uses inexpensive materials with step-by-step instructions.

NA9703 \$9.95

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Serving Science Hobbyists Since 1942

Why is it commonly so difficult to learn a second language when learning a first is virtually effortless for most of us? Unraveling the mysteries of learning a second language, two top researchers in the field explain how language acquisition can be an odyssey of self-discovery.

Ellen Bialystok and Kenji Hakuta view second-language acquisition as one way of coming to grips with the fundamental nature of language, mind, and brain. Using an array of vivid illustrations, lively anecdotes, and fascinating research examples, they show how five elements — brain, language, mind, self, and culture — make up the complex ecology of language learning.

The book considers vital questions: Is the brain “hard-wired” for language learning? Why are the mental operations that allow us to learn language different from those we use to solve math problems or play a musical instrument? How do differences between languages affect language learning? What are various cultures doing to encourage bilingualism?

Among the many myths the authors challenge is the notion that children can learn a second language perfectly and effortlessly while adults encounter much difficulty. But in today’s global village, the effort is more worthwhile than ever.

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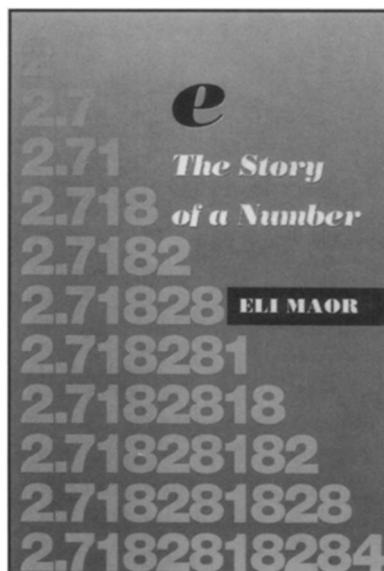
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Princeton University Press, 1994, 223
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The story of π (pi) has been told many times, both in popular books and scholarly works. But the number e , a close relative, has fared less well: Despite its central role in mathematics, its history has never been written for a general audience. *e: The Story of a Number* by Eli Maor fills this gap. Geared to the reader with only a modest background in mathematics, this book is a history of e from a human as well as a mathematical perspective. At the same time, it is the story of an entire period in the history of mathematics, from the early seventeenth to the late nineteenth century, with the invention of calculus at its center. Many of the players who took part in this story are brought to life in these pages. Among them are John Napier, the eccentric religious activist who invented logarithms and—unknowingly—came within a hair’s breadth of discovering e .

The unifying theme in this book is how a single number ties together many different aspects of mathematics—from the law of compound interest to the shape of a hanging chain, from the area under a hyperbola to Euler’s formula $e^x = -1$, from the inner structure of a nautilus shell to Bach’s equal-tempered scale (not to mention the art of M. C. Escher). Maor ends with an account of the discovery of transcendental numbers, an event that paved the way for Cantor’s revolutionary ideas about infinity.

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