

Amazing Numbers and Number Sense



Ramunujan, Srinivasa
1887-1920

In Algebra 1 we have been talking about using your Number Sense to be sure your answers are reasonable. The Indian mathematician, Ramanujan, was reknown for his incredible number sense and computational skills.

An often-repeated story from math history tells of a math colleague visiting Ramanujan in the hospital. Simply to pass the time, G.H. Hardy commented that he had come to the hospital in taxi number 1729 - a number he did not find very interesting. Without a pause, Ramanujan disagreed with his friend, telling him that 1729 is very special number since it is the smallest integer that can be represented by the sum of cubes in TWO different ways: 1^3+12^3 and 9^3+10^3 .