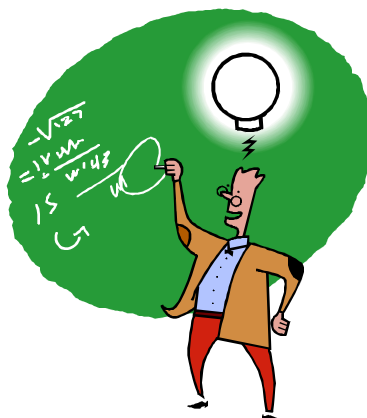


Introduction to Banneker's Mathematics



Benjamin Banneker is considered one of the greatest astronomers and mathematicians of his time; however, the only thing we can gather from his mathematical studies are the answers he concluded from the problems he worked. Most of his papers burned to the ground, along with his house, the day it caught fire. What we do know is that Banneker loved to solve the mathematical puzzles that were popular at that time. His manuscript journal shows that he was also a keen observer of nature, and he used a scientific approach to search for rational explanations.

We can assume that Banneker employed the use of false position problems that were popular during his lifetime. There are two different types of false position, single and double. The reason we can assume this is because Banneker's journal includes a false position problem, however it also only includes the answer. Therefore we cannot say for sure whether false position methods were used, but for the sake of this website, that is the approach we will take.

The next few links are dedicated to discussing false position methods and how they can be used in the everyday classroom.