

## **History of Women Mathematicians**

There are many cases where women have been misjudged about their mathematical abilities. Unfortunately, this has been going on for many years. However, in studying the educational pipeline, I have realized that it is fact that there is a much smaller quantity of women that receive degrees in mathematics than men. Also, studies show that women perform equally as well as men on easy math tests, but men do better on difficult math exams. This is why so many people do not believe that women can do math.

The stereotypes begin as early as middle school and high school. Teachers will automatically assume that the girls are weaker in math, and call on the boys for answers. The stereotypes that women are faced with may disrupt women's math performance. Maybe this is why many women do not like math, or do not try as hard in math. They are lead to believe that they cannot perform as well as men without even knowing.

There have been studies, where the test takers are introduced with gender differences and stereotypes beforehand. For the second study, the students are not introduced with any gender issues. In these studies, it has been proven that the women perform much better on the math tests when they have not heard about gender differences before the test.

In comparison to the many other women mathematicians, Smith was usually the only girl in her higher-level math classes. This seems to be the case for all women mathematicians along the years. Similar to many other mathematicians, Smith had adoration for math. In high school, she was not a serious student, but she managed to get by. On the other hand, mathematics was a different story for her. Because of her passion for math, Smith advanced and wrote a thesis in commutative algebra.