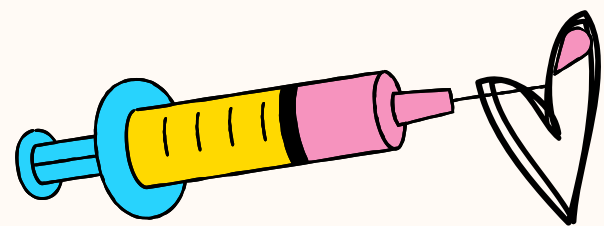
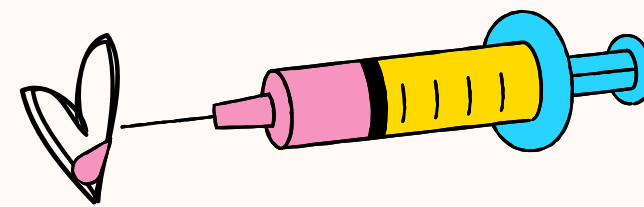


SHAKUNTALA DEVI



India

1929–2013



Early life

Shakuntala Devi was born on November 4, 1929, in Bangalore, Karnataka. Her mathematical talent was discovered by her father, a circus performer, when she was just 3 years old as he taught her a card trick. Realizing the potential of her gift, he left his job at the circus to showcase her abilities to the public. By the age of 6, Shakuntala was already displaying her arithmetic skills at the University of Mysore, marking the start of her journey as the renowned "human computer."

Education

Shakuntala Devi did not receive formal education due to financial constraints and left school at the age of six. However, she continued to develop her mathematical skills through self-study, encouraged by her father. She taught herself complex math concepts by reading books and practicing regularly. Her exceptional abilities led her to perform at universities, gaining global recognition for her remarkable talents.

Contribution

Shakuntala Devi made a lasting contribution to mathematics by popularizing mental arithmetic and demonstrating the power of human calculation. Her contribution is celebrated for promoting mental math and breaking gender barriers in STEM.

Overcoming adversity

Shakuntala Devi overcame financial struggles and a lack of formal education to become a world-renowned mathematician. By age six, she was showcasing her skills at universities. Despite limited resources, she achieved global fame, setting a world record in 1980 by multiplying two 13-digit numbers in 28 seconds, recognized by Guinness World Records. She also authored *The World of Homosexuals* in 1977, advocating for LGBTQ+ rights in India. Her life is a testament to talent and perseverance overcoming adversity.



Fun Facts

Shakuntala Devi became famous for solving complex math problems faster than computers. In 1982, she set a world record by solving a 13-digit multiplication in 28 seconds at Imperial College London. She also wrote books like *Figuring: The Joy of Numbers* to make math more accessible. Alongside her math skills, Devi was also skilled in astrology. She performed around the world, inspiring audiences with her incredible abilities.

SO FUN FACTS