

Discovering the Genius of Srinivasa Ramanujan



A self-taught Indian mathematician whose extraordinary contributions to number theory and infinite series changed mathematics forever.



EARLY LIFE

Srinivasa Ramanujan was born in Erode, Tamil Nadu, India and grew up in a poor family during British rule. From a young age, he showed extraordinary talent for mathematics, and was often found working on problems far beyond his school level. Despite limited resources, he spent hours exploring numbers on his own. Mathematics became his passion and obsession.



EDUCATION

Ramanujan had little professional training in advanced mathematics. He studied mostly from an outdated textbook and independently learned complex ideas. His intense focus on mathematics caused him to struggle in other subjects, preventing him from completing a traditional university degree. Despite this, his mathematical abilities were far beyond many formally trained scholars.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO MATHEMATICS

Ramanujan made many important contributions to number theory, infinite series, continued fractions, and mathematical analysis. He discovered thousands of formulas and many of them were further proven by other mathematicians. His work is influential in modern mathematics and physics today. Some of his work was decades ahead of their time.



ADVERSITY

Ramanujan went through extreme poverty, poor health, and a lack of academic support. For years, his work was ignored because he had no professional credits. He struggled to adapt to England as cultural differences and illness had a negative impact on his health. Despite these challenges, he continued creating masterpieces in mathematics until his death at age 32.



FUN FACTS

- Ramanujan believed many of his mathematical ideas came to him in dreams.
- He collaborated with British mathematician G. H. Hardy, who recognized his genius.
- The number 1729 is known as the "Ramanujan number" because of his insight into it.
- His notebooks are still studied by mathematicians today.