

Count on Athena!



The ancient Greeks credited Athena with the invention of numbers. The number system Athena developed used 27 letters of the Greek alphabet, including three symbols that no longer exist. The first nine letters represented the numbers 1 through 9. The second nine letters represented multiples of 10, from 10 to 90, and the final nine letters represented multiples of 100, from 100 to 900.

A	Alpha	1	I	Iota	10	P	Rho	100
B	Beta	2	K	Kappa	20	Σ	Sigma	200
Γ	Gamma	3	Λ	Lambda	30	Τ	Tau	300
Δ	Delta	4	Μ	Mu	40	Υ	Upsilon	400
Ε	Epsilon	5	Ν	Nu	50	Φ	Phi	500
(obsolete)	Digamma	6	Ξ	Xi	60	Χ	Chi	600
Ζ	Zeta	7	Ο	Omicron	70	Ψ	Psi	700
Η	Eta	8	Π	Pi	80	Ω	Omega	800
Θ	Theta	9	(obsolete)	Koppa	90	(obsolete)	Sampi	900

To write numbers that don't appear in the chart, Greeks combined the numbers, starting with the largest. For example,

$$\Lambda E = 35 \quad \Sigma KB = 200 + 20 + 2 = 222$$

Use the chart above to write the modern equivalent of each Greek number below.

1. ΠΖ = _____

2. ΦΜΕ = _____

3. ΩΠΔ = _____

Use the chart to write the Greek equivalent of each number.

4. 421 = _____

5. 64 = _____

6. 859 = _____