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Shifting Perspectives in Mathematics

We all know students often have a hard time comprehending the importance, relevance and scope of mathematics, and this is especially true for students in service courses. In this talk I will review some activities from two Mathematical Concepts courses I have taught which I found to be particularly useful in shifting students' perspectives on the subject. By viewing numeration through a historical lens or the eyes of a child, from realizing math encompasses much more than algebra to contemplating its paradoxical nature, or by learning how certain thinkers disrupted the mathematical and even social norms of the time, students gained a deeper appreciation of the subject, or at least were able to look at mathematics in a new light, which to me is an important takeaway.