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History for the Future: Heavenly Storytelling in the Mathematics Classroom

We learn best through stories, and the development of mathematics is one of the greatest stories ever told. History provides a rich context for motivating topics, identifying research approaches, applying critical thinking, and illustrating the deep implications of mathematical discoveries. We will explore the power of history in the mathematics classroom through several examples, especially the invention of trigonometry and precursors to numerical analysis in pre-modern mathematical astronomy. Resources for pedagogical materials will be highlighted, and we will suggest avenues for curricular development.