

# Preface

**P**RIME NUMBERS are those integers *greater than one* which are only divisible by themselves and one, such as 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, and 13. There are numerous books that study the theory of the primes, but here our goal is altogether different: to gather prime number trivia. Short pithy statements about primes which we call Prime Curios!

This book is a labor of love. Here we present the very mathematical alongside the non-mathematical, the coincidental mixed with the deeply significant. Just flip the pages and read a few, in order or at random, to get a feel for what we have collected. If one is too difficult, just move on to the next. This is not a textbook, just a collection of trivia.

For years we have collected prime curios at our website. This edition finally gave us the chance to select the best of these, to expand them and present them as an illustrated dictionary. Enjoy this book, share it with others, then come to our website and add new entries of your own.

Why primes? Prime numbers are the bricks and mortar that numbers are built out of. If you want to understand an integer's properties, you start with its prime factorization. Time to start reading!

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