

Bhaskara Biography

Bhaskara

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.



Contents

Bhaskara Biography.....	1
Contents.....	2
Biography.....	3



Biography

Bhaskara, or Bha-skara-cha-rya as he is sometimes known, was the leading mathematician of the 12th century. He applied the concept of **zero**, decimal notation, the use of letters to represent unknown quantities in **equations**, and he developed rules for equations for **trigonometry**.

Bhaskara was born in Biddur, in India, although his mathematical work was carried out whilst he was head of the astronomical observatory at Ujjain (where he eventually died). The three most important books he published were *Lilavati* (The Beautiful), which is about mathematics; *Bijaganita* (Seed Counting), which is about **algebra**; and an astronomical work, *Karanakutuhala* (The Calculation of Astronomical Wonders). *Lilavati* is the first known published work that uses the **decimal position system**.

Bhaskara spent much of his working life studying diophantine equations, and more specifically he studied what we now know as Pell's equation: $x^2 = 1 + py^2$ (in which $p = 8, 11, 32, 61,$ and 67). For $p = 61$ he found the solutions $x = 1776319049$ and $y = 22615390$.

Bhaskara was a mathematician whose work predated much of what was to be achieved in Western mathematics by several centuries, and many of his principles are in wide use today.