

Pappus of Alexandria Encyclopedia Article

Pappus of Alexandria

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Pappus of Alexandria

290?-350?

Greek mathematician, astronomer, and geographer whose major work was the *Synagoge* (or Collection). While serving as a handbook of geometry, the *Synagoge* also incorporated the work of earlier mathematicians, and in many cases is the only existing source for these ideas. It also contains influential work on astronomical and projective geometry, and both René Descartes and Isaac Newton used Pappus's work. He also wrote a geography of the world, and may have written on Euclid's *Elements*, music, and water devices.