

And here's a poem about the history of Mathematics which includes a fair bit on the Greeks. Dodgy rhymes are intentional, by the way!

Good old Thales was the first, he called his home Miletus  
We'll do this little bit in verse, if you'll kindly let us.  
He often talked of circles, diameters and angles  
His Mum and Dad thought it was terribly new-fangled.

Pythagoras then came along with his surprising views,  
Talking of the triangle's hypotenuse.  
He believed in reincarnation of the soul  
And squaring the circle was always his main goal.

In Greece many years ago they flourished, lived and died  
Improving on Mathematics as a matter of national pride.  
Hippocrates, Plato, Eudoxus, Aristotle  
And so many more – there's an awful lot.

Now Euclid was incredible, a proper shining star,  
All of his friends, well they knew that he'd go far.  
He wrote the most important book -it's called The Elements  
You'll have a copy on your shelf if you have any sense

Archimedes was a clever chap who lived on Sicily  
And certainly his C.V. reads impressively.  
He found out all the areas of cylinders and spheres  
Each formula was greeted with the loudest of cheers.

He was the one who had shouted "Eureka"  
It means "I've found it" in Ancient Greek-a  
He made weapons of mass destruction and many a gadget  
But was run through with a spear and then he'd had it.

In 1200 AD the Chinese used a zero. Who invented it?  
Who knows? But he's probably my hero  
And before then we have Algebra all the way from the East –  
Which we will all agree is a most sumptuous feast.

Fibonacci and his numbers now made an appearance  
-This is starting to become a feat of endurance-  
Then Nicholas of Cusa and his thoughts on the infinite  
If you'd like to know more then look on't'internet.

Mathematics was spreading all over the world  
It was used in alchemy to try to make gold  
It became sexy in Europe as part of the Renaissance  
Crucial to the trade of Italian stonemasons.

Descartes, Fermat – they ALL stuck in their oar  
We've mentioned a few- there are hundreds more.  
We're getting to the end of the Mathematicians' line,  
We'll talk of one more and that'll be fine.

Newton was the one who was hit by an apple,  
But it didn't distract him from the problems he'd grapple.  
He came up with theories, he developed Calculus,  
And the impact that made was a massive help to us.

And that brings us to now – the end of the line -  
Or is it? Who knows? There does seem a decline.  
But geniuses appears in each generation  
And their brilliant Maths brains might save every nation.