

Statement of participation

Muhammad Farid Wajdi Makkulau

has completed the free course including any mandatory tests for:

John Napier

This 3-hour free course taught how John Napier's discovery of logarithms changed the course of mathematics.

Issue date: 4 October 2025



www.open.edu/openlearn

This statement does not imply the award of credit points nor the conferment of a University Qualification.
This statement confirms that this free course and all mandatory tests were passed by the learner.

Please go to the course on OpenLearn for full details:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/mathematics-statistics/john-napier/content-section-0>

COURSE CODE: MA290_3

John Napier

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/mathematics-statistics/john-napier/content-section-0>

Course summary

This free course looks at Scotsman John Napier (1550-1617) and his invention which radically altered the course of mathematics. Napier dabbled in mathematics for over 40 years and near the end of his life he introduced his tables of logarithms which drastically reduced the work needed to do complicated calculations, such as those required in astronomy and navigation. Napier's 'excellent brief rules' were quickly adopted and improved upon. This OpenLearn course provides a sample of Level 2 study in Mathematics.

Learning outcomes

By completing this course, the learner should be able to:

- give examples of factors that motivated Napier to invent calculation aids
- understand how logarithms can turn multiplications into additions
- give examples of how Napier's work became known to mathematicians, astronomers, and navigators
- appreciate that presenting mathematical ideas in different ways can affect how easily (or not!) they are understood.

John Napier

Completed study

The learner has completed the following:

Section 1

Background to Napier and his work

Section 2

Napier's bones

Section 3

Napier's approach to logarithms

Section 4

Napier and motion

Section 5

Napier and Briggs

Section 6

Spreading the word about logarithms

Section 7

Kepler and logarithms