

Instructions: How to Multiply Like an Egyptian

Choose two numbers to multiply. One of them should be less than 256. Write them in the boxes at the top of the table. The smaller number should go in the left-hand box. Write the right hand number next to the 1. Double it and write the result next to the 2. Double again and write this number next to the 4. Continue until you have filled in the row containing a printed number which is larger than the number you wrote at the top of the left-hand column.

Circle the numbers in the left-hand column which add up to the number at the top of the column. How do you figure out which ones to circle?

Example: Suppose you wrote 119 at the top of the left-hand column.

Don't circle 128. You can't add a number to 128 to make 119.

Circle 64. $119 - 64 = 55$, so $64 + 55 = 119$.

Circle 32. $55 - 32 = 23$, so $119 = 23 + 32 + 64$.

Circle 16. $23 - 16 = 7$, so $119 = 7 + 16 + 32 + 64$.

Don't circle 8. You can't add something to 8 to make 7.

Circle 4. $7 - 4 = 3$, so $119 = 3 + 4 + 16 + 32 + 64$.

Circle 1 and 2, because $1 + 2 = 3$. $1 + 2 + 4 + 16 + 32 + 64 = 119$.

Add the numbers in the right-hand column which are next to the circled numbers in the left hand column. Write the sum in the box at the bottom of the table. This sum is the answer to the multiplication problem.