



What do you notice?

What do you wonder?

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

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What do you wonder?

This diagram, called the Lo Shu *magic square*, is from ancient China. It is at least 2500 years old. One legend describes how there was a terrible flood. People offered sacrifices to the god of a flooding river to calm its anger. Then a turtle appeared with the magic square pattern on its back.

You can learn more about the history of algebra in Tools of Algebra: Expressions, Equations & Inequalities at <http://www.collectedny.org/indexftgmp>.