

Diophantus II

Mathematical **puzzles** have fascinated people throughout the ages. These were often expressed in verse or as riddles like this:

*God granted him to be a boy for the sixth part
of his life, and adding a twelfth part to this,
He clothed his cheeks with down; He lit him the
light of wedlock after a seventh part, and five
years after his marriage he granted him a son.
Alas! Late-born wretched child; after attaining
the measure of half of his father's full life, chill
Fate took him.*

*After consoling his grief by this science of
numbers for four years he ended his life.*

How long did Diophantus live?

[Diophantus, a Greek mathematician]



LEVEL 6