Table of Contents

1. Questions about Studying Math

JW/SD: What made you choose to study math?

*I always loved patterns. Math was just a language of patterns that I played since very young. Here's a problem my uncle once gave me. Why is the sequence 1/1=1, 1/(1+1)=1/2, 1/(1+1/(1+1)=2/3, … the same as [1+rt(5)]/2 ?

SB: What do you find easy about and challenging about math?

*The two most exciting times is when I was shown there is no closest number to 0 [think about 1/10, 1/100, 1/1000 ….], and when I realized trigonometry is a connection between algebra and geometry.

I still love patterns, though patterns of language interest me as much as numbers. So sonnets and haiku are fun.

SC: Did you ever get mad while doing math?

*Never mad, though sometimes the challenge was tough. When I was new professor I had the job of reading solutions by non mathematicians to famous math problems like The Four Color Problem.

Here is a pattern: Suppose n is an integer. Divide n by 2 if it is even. Multiply n by 3 and add 1 if it is odd.

So 3 is sent to 4, 4 is sent to 2, and 2 is sent to 1.

Try this with 5.

Problem: Is there an integer n, that does not eventually reach 1 by this process?

Here is a pattern: give me a 3 digit number not all 4 the same. Write the digits in descending order and subtract from that in ascending order.

So given 613, we compute 631 – 136 = 495.

Problem: Why, when you continue this process, does one always get 495?

I worked on one called *The Box Product Problem* for 30 years. It still isn't solved. It is exciting to learn when people try to solve a problem I couldn't solve. It may be one of those problems which can never be solved.

AM: What is one way you stayed focused?

*I carried my math in my head. Solving problems while at meals. I always had paper and pencil to write down my thoughts.

2. Questions about the MAD resource

JHD/KB/SH/MD: What made you want to create the resources for math in ancient Africa and Black women in math?

*I found false and incomplete data at a resource from Princeton University, about which I knew correct data. I decided to set the records straight for everyone.

JJ: What did you want to achieve?
CFR/DJ: How did you figure out how to gather all of the resources for MAD?
AN/TG/BG: Where did you get all of the information about Black women in math?
KM: How long did it take you to write the MAD resource?

*I worked on M.A.D. building it over ten years. I had some books. I read many papers and books. I met and questioned people who knew things I didn't. I used people's personal websites, and I often checked with other experts to see if my data was correct.

3. Personal Questions

JT: What's your favorite thing to do other than math?

*a. write poetry and stories
*b. walk along wilderness trails
*c. work with girlfriend on crafts and music.
*d. play with my six grandkids.

DL: Where in the world would you most want to visit?

I have been to 5 continents. These, excepting one, are places I have been to, and I wish to return. Which one do you think I have not visited?

*a. Harare, Zimbabwe; b. Auchland, New Zealand.

*c. Rio, Brazil; d. Easter Island;

*e. Seattle, Washington; f. Xian, China;

*g. Corn Island, Nicaragua; h. Prague, Czech Republic.

RS: What is one thing you wish for?

*a. My children and grandchildren have a life that pleases them. *b. Problems I could not solve are solved.

KA: Do you have a goal in life? If so, what is it?

*To stay calm.

JB: What would you do to make things better in the world?

*Learn the truth.

*Tell people the truth.

*To allow others to tell the truth, while examining their words.

*To admit my mistakes.