

Archived Information

**Mathematical Association of America
American Mathematical Society
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
The Math Forum**

Increasing Public Understanding: Mathematics Awareness Month

Goal:

To provide materials and resources on the applications of mathematics to colleges and secondary schools and the public for use in teaching, learning, and enjoying mathematics.

Summary:

Each April, the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (MAA, AMS, and SIAM) sponsors Mathematics Awareness Month. Each year a theme linking mathematics with an application in another field is chosen, a poster is created and distributed to mathematics departments in colleges and universities, a website hosted by Math Forum is created, and resources are collected for the website, and the week is publicized by the JPBM organizations and other mathematics associations such as AMATYC, ASA, and NCTM.

Purpose:

To increase public understanding and appreciation of mathematics and encourage students in the study of mathematics through seeing its breadth and importance in a larger context.

Accomplishments/Results:

JPBM has sponsored Mathematics Awareness Month since 1991. All previous posters and materials are available on the Math Forum website. In 2001, the poster was sent to all members of NCTM. The materials have been very popular and have been widely used by high school and college teachers and students.

Plans for the next 12 months:

The theme for 2003 is Mathematics and Art. The website can be accessed through the MAA, SIAM, and AMS websites as well as going directly to Math Forum.

Additional information is available at <http://www.maa.org> or <http://.mathforum.org/mam/03/>.