Eratosthenes

Eratosthenes was a greek mathematician who was famous for his work on prime numbers and for measuring the diameter of the earth!!

Eratosthenes also came up with the "Sieve of Eratosthenes", a method of identifying prime numbers. Just to let you know...a prime number is a number that can only be divided by itself and 1. It has only TWO factors.

	2	3		5		7			
11		13				17		19	
		23						29	
31						37			
41		43				47			
		53						59	
61						67			
71		73						79	
		83						89	
						97			

! Interesting Facts !

- He never married!
- A crater on the Earth's moon is named after Eratosthenes!
- He was a librarian at the famous Alexandian library!

He was the first to estimate accurately the diameter of the earth. He knew that at noon the Sun was directly overhead in the town of Syene, for there was no shadow at the bottom of a well in Cyrene. By measuring the length of the shadow of a tall tower, on the solstice, in his home city of Alexandria and by determining the distance between Cyrene and Alexandria (about 800 km), he was able to calculate the circumference of the Earth!!

- Born: 276 BC
- Birthplace: Cyrene, Libya
- Died: 194 BC
- Location of death: Alexandria, Egypt
- Cause of death: Starvation
- Occupation: Mathematician, Scholar, Astronomer

ALSO...

- He worked for most of his life and unfortunately only some of his writing has survived. Some believe that he starved himself to death after going blind.