

# dig<sup>TM</sup> 3,500-Year-Old Tombs

**ARE YOU  
A FRIEND OF  
KING TUT?**



**A Woman  
with a Mission**

**Baboons,  
Falcons,  
& COWS** Oh My!

**Ancient Egypt's**

**Saqqara  
Secrets**



# SURPRISE!

# TEMPLE FINDS

The epics of Homer, the Old Testament, and 3,200-year-old Egyptian texts tell of an era of widespread famine, conflict, and migration movements. Many historians and others thought the references were to a prolonged Dark Age of cultural decline and ethnic wars. But the recent discovery of a very well-preserved monumental temple built in the 10th–9th century B.C. in southwest Turkey at the Tell Ta'yinat suggests the description may be inaccurate. Some groups of people may indeed have survived the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age.

Tell Ta'yinat was the capital of a powerful kingdom called the Land of Palastin. Discoveries at this early Iron Age settlement show evidence of the direct presence of foreign settlers from the world of the Aegean Sea, the traditional homeland of the migrants known to history as the Sea People.

Excavations at Tell Ta'yinat (see [www.utoronto.ca/tap](http://www.utoronto.ca/tap)) have thus far uncovered the southern approach to the temple. It faced a wide, stone-paved courtyard that had a huge staircase

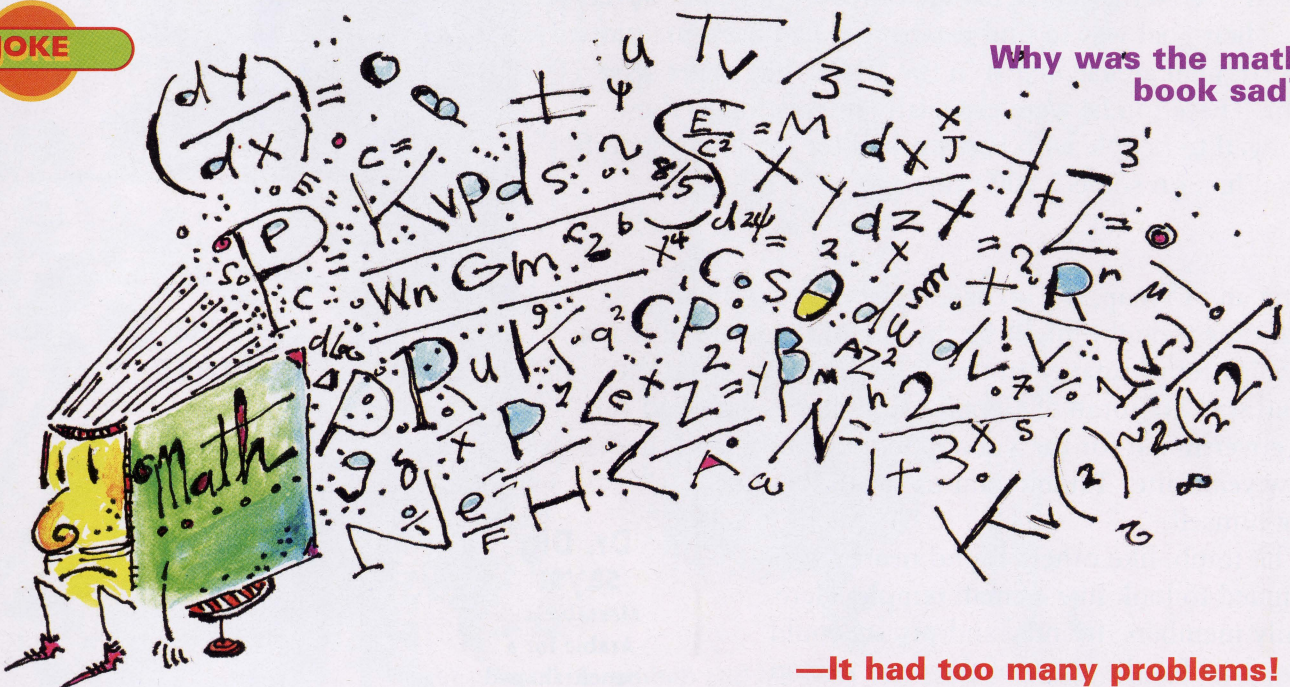


C'mon down to see more temple finds!

and a porticoed-entrance, supported by a large, intricately carved base of basalt columns. Fragments of stone slabs have also been uncovered, carved in Luwian hieroglyphic script, a now-extinct language.

Evidence suggests that fire damaged the temple's central room, as it was filled with charred brick and wood. Among the other uncovered finds are bronze metal objects, carved ivory fragments, pieces of gold and silver foil, and a carved human eye that probably once belonged to a statue.

# JOKE



Why was the math book sad?

—It had too many problems!

illustrated by Tom Lopes