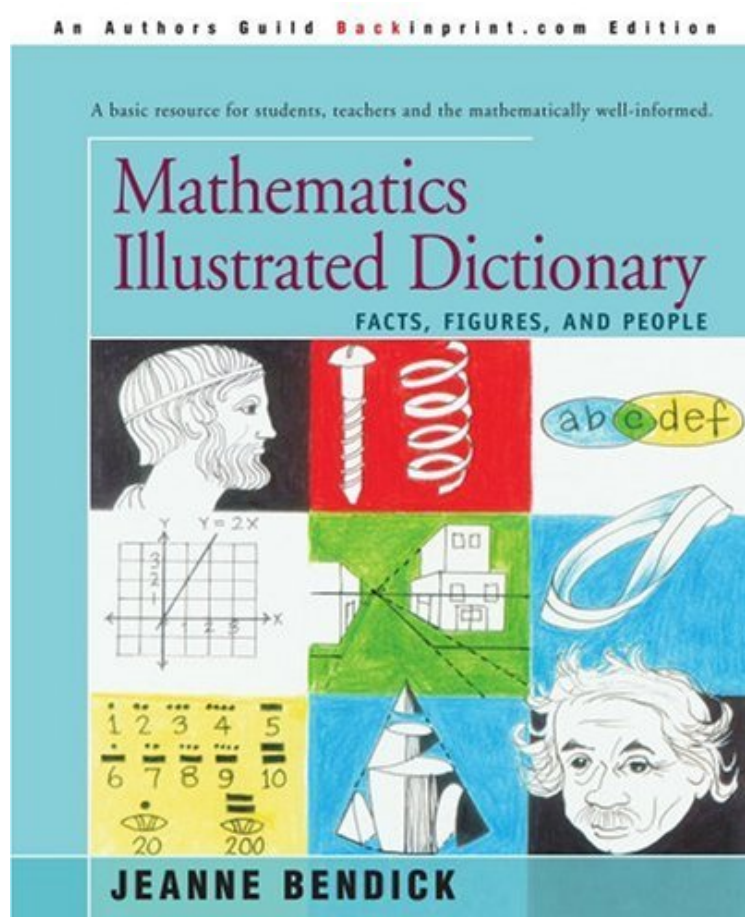


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Mathematics Illustrated Dictionary: Facts, Figures, and People

Jeanne Bendick

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From School Library Journal Grade 5-9 -- Mathematics Illustrated Dictionary includes many terms that have only the vaguest connection to math (e.g. beneficiary, modem, robot), but cuts many of its truly mathematical definitions too short to be of any use. It lacks an audience, dragging in set theory to define addition, yet defining "deviation standard" merely as "a statistic that characterizes a distribution of scores," with no particulars to pin it down. Many of its definitions are fuzzy, some are simply wrong, and a few are so tangled that they become grammatical instead of mathematical puzzles. Math notation is not always defined where it's needed, and is, all too often, hand written so that it bears insufficient resemblance to printed forms. The diagrams are also hand drawn and amateurish. The biographies are short and cursory, and the cross references are erratic. This mildly updates the 1965 edition, where drastic revision was needed. The information is better presented in standard dictionaries and encyclopedias. --Margaret Chatham, formerly at Smithtown Library, NY Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Jeanne Bendick has written and illustrated over a hundred books about the sciences, about mathematics, and about the people who built these sciences. She is known for her clear, simple explanations of complex subjects and for the lighthearted drawings that illustrate them. She and her husband have traveled widely. They live in Guilford, Connecticut.