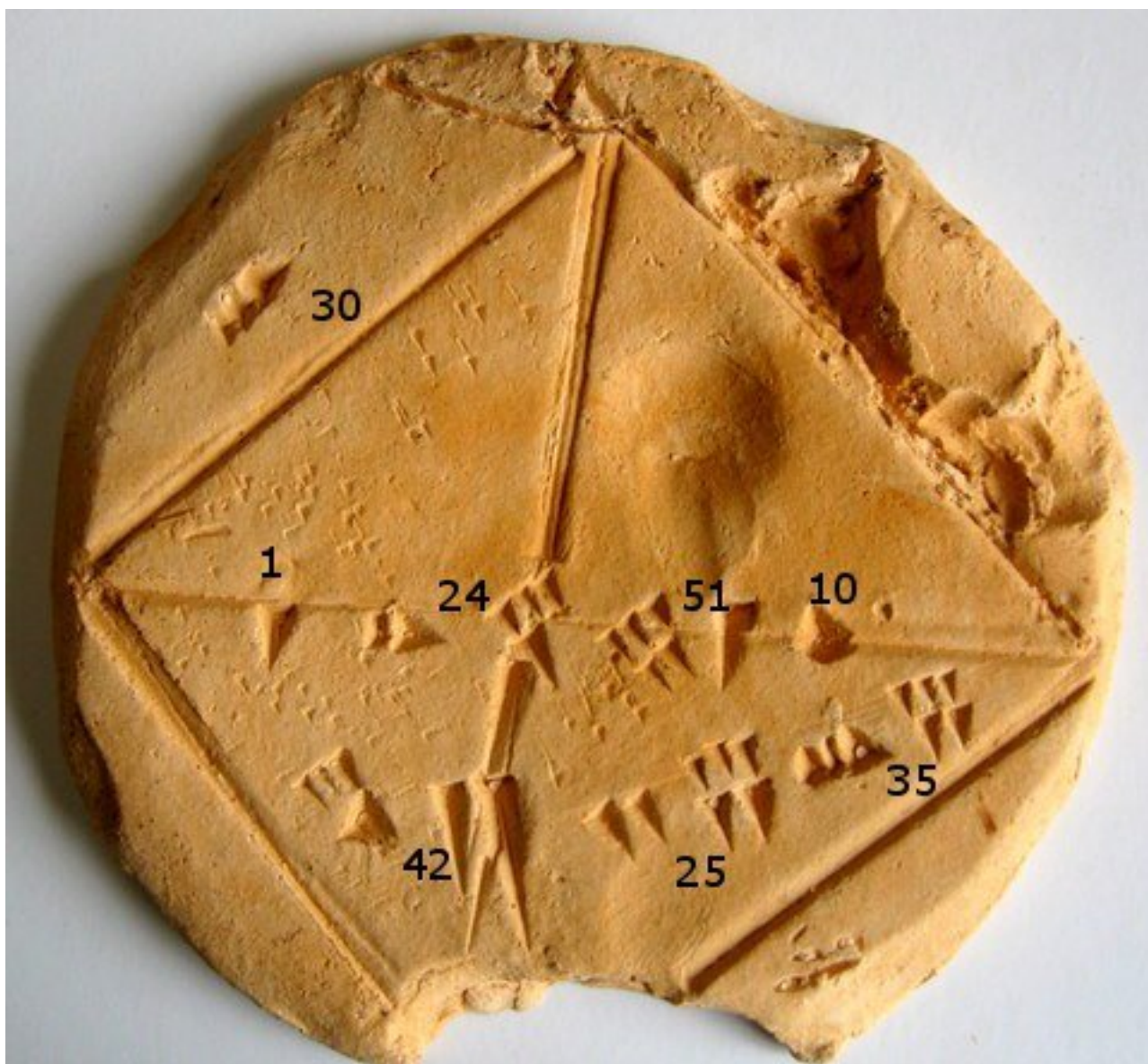


Old Babylonian Tablet 19th/17th century BC Mathematics Tablet predating Pythagoras Theorem



A Mathematical tablet from ancient Babylon. This tablet has a series of cuneiform figures on it in this case in the form of numbers. The numbers across the top of the horizontal line are as listed in the image but proceed according to a sexagesimals numbering system used by the Babylonians based on a figure of 60 instead of our present decimal system, and hence from where we get our 60 seconds in our minute and our 360 degrees in a circle and so forth.

The figures above the line read:

$$1 + 24/60 + 51/60^2 + 10/60^3 = 1.41421296\dots$$

Identify where else a 60 units base is used today?

What would be the effect if we did not have a sexagesimals system today?