



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Archimedes

ANCIENT GREEK MATHEMATICIAN

Archimedes was born around 287 BC in Syracuse, a Greek city on the island of Sicily. His father was an astronomer and Archimedes always loved maths and science.

Because he lived so long ago we don't know a lot about his life. However, one famous story tells how the King asked him to find out whether his new crown was made of pure gold or whether the goldsmith had cheated him by mixing in silver. Archimedes didn't know how to test it, until one day he climbed into a bath and noticed the water spilling over the sides. He realised that the amount of water an object pushes out of the way (displaces) tells you its size and density. The story goes that he was so excited he leapt out of his bath shouting "Eureka!" - which means "I have found it!" This discovery is now known as Archimedes' Principle.

Archimedes also invented a giant screw-shaped pump to move water uphill to farmers' fields. And when the Romans attacked Syracuse, he designed war machines to defend his city, including a giant crane to grab ships and tip them over. He held the Romans off for two years!

He is still considered one of the greatest mathematicians who ever lived!

