What do you notice? What do you wonder?
This diagram, called the Lo Shu *magic square*, is from ancient China. It is at least 2500 years old. One legend describes how there was a terrible flood. People offered sacrifices to the god of a flooding river to calm its anger. Then a turtle appeared with the magic square pattern on its back.

You can learn more about the history of algebra in *Tools of Algebra: Expressions, Equations & Inequalities* at [http://www.collectedny.org/indexftgmp](http://www.collectedny.org/indexftgmp).