


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.




