MathFLIX CHALLENGE
The Decimal Point

Simon Stevin of Belgium invented the decimal system in 1585, but John Napier perfected it. Compare Stevin's system with Napier's (the one we use today) and decide for yourself which is easier to use.

Stevin	Napier
5⓪9①	5.9
55⓪9①4②	55.94
123⓪4①5②6③	123.456

As you can see, Stevinus uses circled numbers to indicate place value. Napier's system eliminated the distracting circled numbers. Now use Napier's system of decimals to help you calculate powers of 10. Remember to shift the decimal point to the right to multiply and to the left to divide.

#	× 10	× 100	× 1,000	$\overline{10}$ (or ÷10)	$\overline{100}$ (or ÷10)	$\overline{1,000}$ (or ÷10)
143.000						
716.235						
43.000						
1.000						
12.16						
1.069						
.1245						
.00007						
1347						