WHAT IF NO ONE THOUGHT OF PI?
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Little Bear: What if...
...no one thought of pi?
Would planets still be round?
Would we still be able to fly in an airplane?
Big Bear: So many questions! Well… If no one had thought of pi, we just wouldn’t know how to measure round things on our planet.
Little Bear: But what about wheels? Would they be... square?
Big Bear: No, silly. If wheels were square, they wouldn’t be able to roll!
If no one thought of pi, we’d still have the round moon,
but astronauts wouldn’t know how long it would take to get there.
We’d still have a round sun, but we wouldn’t know just how big it really is.
We need roundness and rhythm and waves—these are all things that are measured by pi.
It is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter, and it’s always the same ratio!
Pi is a mathematical constant that can be calculated to many places past the decimal point without ever repeating the sequence of numbers.
If no one thought of pi, we would still look the same with round eyes and ears,
we would still have days and nights,
and the earth would still spin around and around the sun,
but...
we just wouldn’t understand so much of our crazy world.
Little Bear: Wow, I’m so glad someone thought of pi.