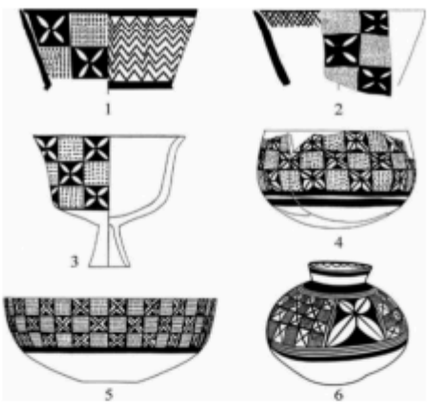
V1	V2	V3	V4
69	49	32	11

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Texto para as questões de 68 a 70



Images of plants painted on pottery made up to 8,000 years ago may be the earliest example of humans' mathematical thought, a study has found.

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem examined pottery produced by the Halafian people of northern Mesopotamia, who lived between 6200 BC and 5500 BC.

Many bowls featured flowers that have been depicted with four, eight, 16, 32 or 64 petals. The use of these numbers forms a "geometric sequence" that implies a form of mathematical reasoning rooted in symmetry and repetition, the researchers said in the study published in the Journal of World Prehistory.

The researchers examined pottery fragments from 29 Halafian sites, excavated over a 100-year period from 1899. They found that in nearly every one of the 375 fragments that depict flowers, the number of petals is determined by this doubling sequence, which divides a circle into symmetrical units.

The Halafians may have developed this form of mathematical reasoning in response to managing village communities that had existed in the Near East for some 4,000 years and had become economically complex, the researchers said.

The ability to divide space evenly, reflected in these floral motifs, likely had practical roots in daily life, such as sharing harvests or allocating communal fields.

The researchers said the Halafian use of the numbers four, eight, 16 and 32 may reflect an earlier and simpler level of mathematical thinking that was in use in the Near East in the 6th and 5th millennia BC. According to the researchers, these patterns show that mathematical thinking began long before writing.

No texto, a articulação entre os fragmentos de cerâmica e a hipótese de pesquisa apresentada evidencia um procedimento metodológico que

(A) substitui análise arqueológica por reconstruções especulativas sem base empírica.
(B) equipara padrões decorativos a símbolos de notação matemática desenvolvidos de modo pleno.
(C) atribui função estética e ornamental às representações florais.
(D) transforma vestígios materiais em fundamento para inferências sobre o pensamento antigo.
(E) considera a simetria como evidência literal de sistemas de escrita numérica.

RESOLUÇÃO

O texto aponta o uso de um procedimento científico muito utilizado na arqueologia: a observação de evidências materiais para a reconstrução de aspectos de sociedades antigas. A partir da análise dos objetos materiais (cerâmica), os pesquisadores formularam hipóteses sobre a maneira como os halafianos viviam e pensavam.

Gabarito: D