

Labels Used in Algebra

There are many symbols and letters used in algebra, and many of them have a special meaning.

π is a very special number, special enough to have a symbol to label it.

Less special numbers have letters to label them. Unknown numbers are labelled x or y , as are coordinate axes, though other symbols can be used.

Integers are generally labelled n (the 'natural numbers' are the positive integers) and m .

Lengths can be labelled by lots of different letter: a , b , c are used for triangles, a , b , h are used for trapeziums, and r is used for the radius of a circle. l is used to label the length of an arc - part of the perimeter - of a circle, and s is used to label the slant height of a cone.