

Lesson 1 - The Cartesian Plane, Distance & Midpoint Formula, Equations and Intercepts

1. Consider the points (3,2) and (9,10).
  - a. Plot the points. **Check Desmos**
  - b. Find the distance between the points (3,2) and (9,10).

$$d = \sqrt{(9 - 3)^2 + (10 - 2)^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{(6)^2 + (8)^2} = \sqrt{36 + 64} = \sqrt{100} = 10$$

- c. Find the “midpoint” between the points (3,2) and (9,10).

$$(x_m, y_m) = \left( \frac{3 + 9}{2}, \frac{2 + 10}{2} \right) = \left( \frac{12}{2}, \frac{12}{2} \right) = (6, 6)$$

- d. Confirm that the points are located on the equation:

$$y = \frac{4}{3}x - 2$$

$$2 = \frac{4}{3}(3) - 2$$

$$10 = \frac{4}{3}(9) - 2 = (4 * 3) - 2$$

- e. Find the y-intercepts of the equation above.

$$y = \frac{4}{3}(0) - 2 = -2$$

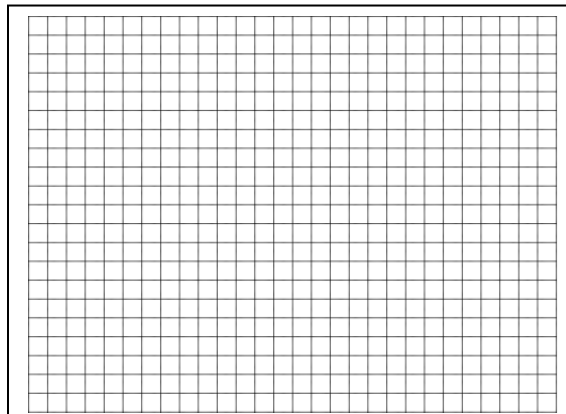
x-intercept: (0, -2)

- f. Find the x-intercepts of the equation above.

$$0 = \frac{4}{3}x - 2; \quad x = 2 * \frac{3}{4}; \quad x = \frac{3}{2}$$

- g. Complete the table below for the equation  $y = \frac{4}{3}x - 2$ .

x	-3	0	3	6	9
y	-6	-2	2	6	10



**The Distance Formula:**

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

(Remember: the distance formula comes from the Pythagorean Theorem, using  $(x_2 - x_1)$  and  $(y_2 - y_1)$ .)

**The Midpoint Formula:**

$$(x_m, y_m) = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

(The midpoint is just average of the  $x$  values and the average of the  $y$  values.)

**Finding Intercepts:**

y-intercepts: **The value touching the y-axis.**

Set  $x = 0$  and solve for  $y$ .

x-intercepts: **The value(s) touching the x-axis.**

Set  $y = 0$  and solve for  $x$ .

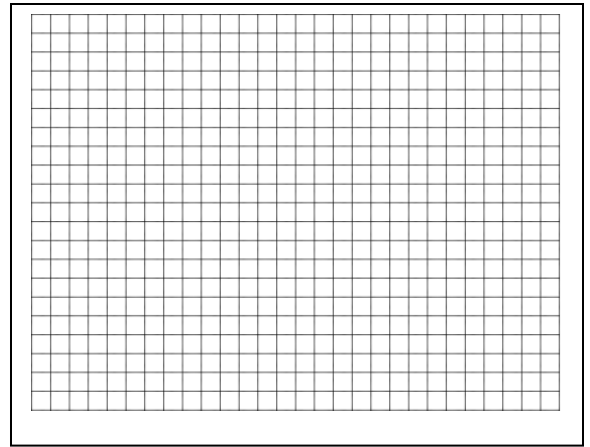
2. Consider the points  $(-2, -3)$  and  $(2,5)$ .
- Plot the points. **Check Desmos.**
  - Find the distance between the points.

$$d = \sqrt{(2 + 2)^2 + (5 + 3)^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{(4)^2 + (8)^2} = \sqrt{16 + 64} = \sqrt{80} = 4\sqrt{5}$$

- Find the midpoint between the points.

$$(x_m, y_m) = \left( \frac{-2 + 2}{2}, \frac{-3 + 5}{2} \right) = \left( \frac{0}{2}, \frac{2}{2} \right) = (0, 1)$$



- Confirm that the two points lie on the equation:

$$y = x^2 + 2x - 3$$

$$-3 = (-2)^2 + 2(-2) - 3 = 4 - 4 - 3 = -3$$

$$5 = (2)^2 + 2(2) - 3 = 4 + 4 - 3 = 5$$

- Complete the table below and graph the equation:  $y = x^2 + 2x - 3$

x	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
y	5	0	-3	-4	-3	0	5

**Practice:** For problems #3 and #4, find the y-intercepts and x-intercepts of the following equations:

3.  $y = x^3 - 4x$

$$y = (0)^3 - 4(0) = 0$$

$$0 = x(x^2 - 4) = x(x - 2)(x + 2)$$

y-intercept:  $(0,0)$

x-intercepts:  $(0,0)$ ;  $(2,0)$ ;  $(-2,0)$

4.  $y^2 + 2x = 16$

$$y^2 + 2(0) = 16$$

$$y^2 = 16$$

$$y = \pm 4$$

y-intercepts:  $(-4,0)$ ;  $(4,0)$

$$(0)^2 + 2x = 16$$

$$2x = 16$$

$$x = 8$$

x-intercepts:  $(8,0)$

5. Show that these points form the vertices of an isosceles triangle.  $(1, -3)$ ;  $(3,2)$ ;  $(-2,4)$ .

$$d_{2nd-1st} = \sqrt{(3 - 1)^2 + (2 + 3)^2} = \sqrt{(2)^2 + (5)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 25} = \sqrt{29}$$

$$d_{3rd-2nd} = \sqrt{(-2 - 3)^2 + (4 - 2)^2} = \sqrt{(-5)^2 + (2)^2} = \sqrt{25 + 4} = \sqrt{29}$$

$$d_{3rd-1st} = \sqrt{(-2 - 1)^2 + (4 + 3)^2} = \sqrt{(-3)^2 + (7)^2} = \sqrt{9 + 49} = \sqrt{58}$$

Only 2 sides are of equal length = isosceles triangle.

6. Consider the coordinates  $A(-1,1)$ ,  $B(3,6)$ ,  $C(6,2)$ , and  $D(2,-3)$ . Work with a partner to find the lengths of  $\overline{AB}$ ,  $\overline{BC}$ ,  $\overline{CD}$ ,  $\overline{AD}$ . What figure is represented by the quadrilateral formed by these four lengths?

$$\overline{AB} = \sqrt{(3+1)^2 + (6-1)^2} = \sqrt{(4)^2 + (5)^2} = \sqrt{16+25} = \sqrt{31}$$

$$\overline{BC} = \sqrt{(6-3)^2 + (2-6)^2} = \sqrt{(3)^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{9+16} = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

$$\overline{CD} = \sqrt{(2-6)^2 + (-3-2)^2} = \sqrt{(-4)^2 + (-5)^2} = \sqrt{16+25} = \sqrt{31}$$

$$\overline{AD} = \sqrt{(2+1)^2 + (-3-1)^2} = \sqrt{(3)^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{9+16} = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

Opposite sides are the same length but the angles are not 90 degrees = this is a parallelogram.