Human Coordinate Plane: Teacher Notes





MA.C. 3.3.2

(+ -) Math Abilities

Conceptual Knowledge Coordinate Plane Axis Slope Intercept

Procedural Knowledge Graphing Coordinate Pairs Representing Lines and Inequalities



Problem Solving Reasoning Communication Connections Representation

Hook

Arrange 25 desks in a square array and have students sit in them. Explain that they are a human coordinate plane and each of them is to receive a card with an ordered pair (x,y) on it. Ask students who are not seated to distribute the ordered pair cards to the appropriate location. They may need to refer to a grid with points labeled as shown:

| (-2,2) | (-1,2) | (0,2) | (1,2) | (2,2) |
|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| (-2,1) | (-1,1) | (0,1) | (1,1) | (2,1) |
| (-2,0) | (-1,0) | (0,0) | (1,0) | (2,0) |
| (-2,-1) | (-1,-1) | (0,-1) | (1,-1) | (2,-1) |
| (-2,-2) | (-1,-2) | (0,-2) | (1,-2) | (2,-2) |

Group Arrangement

Students work individually and as a class

Tools

- 25 large ordered pair cards labeled as shown above
- large grid with the points shown above labeled
- overhead projector or chalkboard

Procedure

1. Ask the student whose ordered pair card has 0 as the first number to stand. Through discussion identify 0 as the xcoordinate and the students standing as the y-axis, they should now sit and students whose ordered card pair has 0 as the second number should stand. Again, discussion should identify the 0 as the y-coordinate and the students standing as the x-axis.

- Ask each student with an x-coordinate of 1 to stand up and write x = 1 on the board. Now ask students with an x-coordinate of -2 to stand and write x = -2 on the board. Through discussion, lead students to see that equations of the form shown are:
 - a. a vertical line
 - b. parallel to the y-axis
- 3. Ask each student with a y-coordinate of 1 to stand up and write y = 1 on the board. Now ask students with a y-coordinate of -1 to stand and write y = -1 on the board. Through discussion, lead students to see that equations of the form shown are:
 - a. a horizontal line
 - b. parallel to the x-axis
- 4. Ask the students whose ordered pair has a sum of 1 to stand and write x + y = 1. These students should remain standing while students whose ordered pair first number - the second number equals 1 stand. Write x - y = 1 on the board. Through discussion, lead student to see that (1,0) is a point on both lines and represents the point of intersection. Substitute values in the equations on the board to show that (1,0) makes both x + y = 1 and x - y = 1 true.
- 5. Repeat the above process using x + y = 1 and x + y = 2. Guide students to discover that if there is no point of intersection, the lines are parallel.

Math Connection

As a result of this activity, students will have a better understanding of the coordinate plane.



Ask students whose ordered pair sum is 2 to raise their hands. Now ask students whose ordered pair sum in less than 2 to stand and write x + y < 2 on the board. Show the students a graph with a dotted line for x + y = 2 and shading for x + y < 2. Note that the shading includes all points, not just integral values. Repeat the process for other inequalities.