Colour in Mathematics

The use of colour to add clarity

Colleen Young colleenyoung.org
Twitter: @ColleenYoung

Mathematics, Learning and Technology

A	Lessor	Planning	Problems & A	ctivities	Use of Te	echnology	KS3	A Level (16+)	Ri	ich Tasks	Revision	Resources	
Calc	ılators	Reference	Reading	UK Ass	essment	Apps	About	I'm Looking For.		Updates	Popular F	osts & Links	

Autograph – Web Version

From The Complete Mathematics Conference, I really enjoyed Maths Conference #26, July 2021. The highlight for me (apart from very much enjoying my own session presenting with AQA on the New GCSE Maths tests from Exampro which been developed for the two-year AQA key stage 4 scheme of work) had to be the first session of the day I attended – a first look at the web version of Autograph.

I have also added this information to a **new page** in the **Autograph** section of my **Use of Technology** series.

A web version for Autograph is now available, a game-changer for this sophisticated object-based dynamic geometry system. It has a great deal of functionality already and will be developed even further. I am so pleased to have the option now of sharing pages easily with students. The interface is intuitive. Select the various options to see all the functionality available. Add some points or an equation and experiment! I really like all the style options in Autograph making it possible to create attractive resources. And look at all those colours! That certainly appeals to me with my interest in using colour in Mathematics to add clarity to explanations. Note the colours of the points I have used in my reflection example below. This is just my own first look, I will be learning much more.

Featured Posts

Rosenshine's Principles in the Mathematics Classroom

Knowledge Organisers - Mathematics

The Standards Unit - Mathematics

Wisweb Applets HTML5

Arithmagons

PowerPoint Collection

Colour in Mathematics

Search ...

Algebra – Like terms

$$6a+4b+2a-5b$$

$$= 8a-b$$

The use of colour helps emphasise which sign is associated with each term

SMART Board.

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3^{2}-1}} \times \frac{\sqrt{3^{2}+1}}{\sqrt{3^{2}+1}} = > \frac{2(\sqrt{3^{2}+1})}{(\sqrt{3^{2}-1})(\sqrt{3^{2}+1})}$$

$$\frac{2\sqrt{3}+2}{3+\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{3}-1} = 2$$

Order of Operations

$$6-5+2-2$$
 $4+2\times 3$ $8-7$ $4+6$ 10

The use of colour helps emphasise which sign is associated with each term. We can also emphasise operations.

SMART Coard.

Order of Operations

a)
$$4 \times 2 + 3$$
 b) $20 \div 5 - 3$ c) $4 + 2 \times 3$

d)
$$20 - 15 \div 3$$
 e) $20 \div 4 + 3 \times 2$

$$f) 5 \times (3 + 4) - 9 \quad g) 3 + 2^2 \quad h) (3 + 2)^2$$

i)
$$(3 + 4 \times 2)^2$$
 j) $3 + 4 \times 2^2$

$$k) (3+1)^2 + 2 \times 5$$
 1) $(3+1+2\times 5)^2$





transform

keypad





undo redo

τT

$$4 \times 2 + 3$$

$$8 + 3$$

$$4 + 2 \times 3$$

10

$$5 \times (3 + 4) - 9$$

$$5 \times 7 - 9$$

$$35 - 9$$

26

$$3 + 2^2$$

$$(3+2)^2$$

25

$$(3+1)^2 + 2 \times 5$$

$$4^2 + 2 \times 5$$

$$4^2 + 10$$

$$16 + 10$$

26

$$(3+4\times2)^2$$

$$(3+8)^2$$

112

121

$$3 + 4 \times 2^{2}$$

$$3 + 4 \times 4$$

$$3 + 16$$

19

Examples from

Increasingly Difficult Questions - @TAYLORDA01 (weebly.com)

See Order of Operations



○ - insert



eypad keypad



scrub



e undo redo

∓T larger

Order of Operations Examples

$$6 - 2 + 1$$

Addition and subtraction have equal precedence, so these operations could be done in either order.

Note that we have

+6 (conventionally we do not write a positive sign in front of the first term).

$$-2$$
 and $+1$.

$$6 - 2 + 1$$

Here the subtraction is done first.

$$6 - 2 + 1$$

$$6 - 1$$

Here the **addition** is done first.

Note that we could reorder the numbers.

$$6 - 2 + 1$$

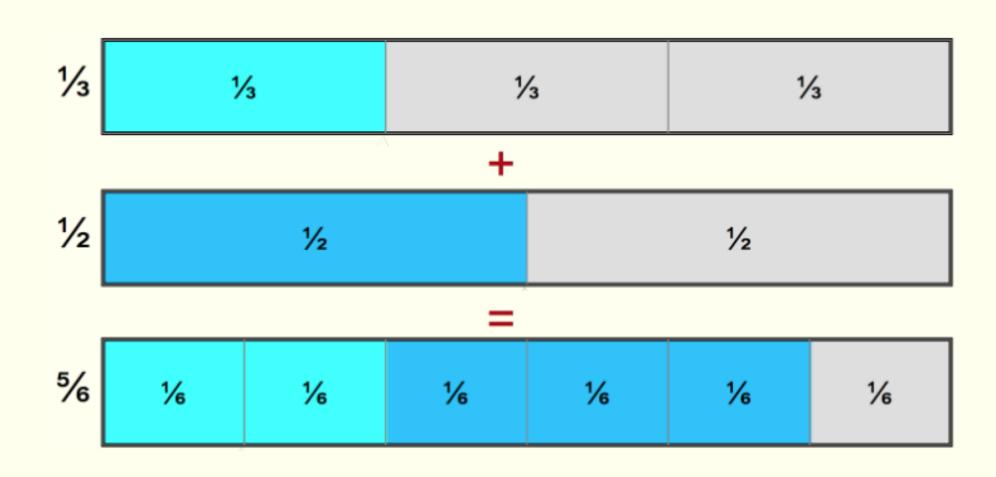
$$6 + 1 - 2$$

6-2+1

is the same calculation as

Try some examples yourself: https://graspablemath.com/canvas/?load=_8622dbc838fbc839

The Mathenæum - Ken Wessen



Algebra – equating coefficients

$$2(x + 16) + 4(x - 5)$$
 simplifies to $a(x + b)$

Work out the values of a and b.

$$2(x+16) + 4(x-5) = a(x+b)$$

$$2x+32 + 4x-20 = ax+ab$$

$$6x+12 = ax+ab$$

$$6=a$$
 12=ab

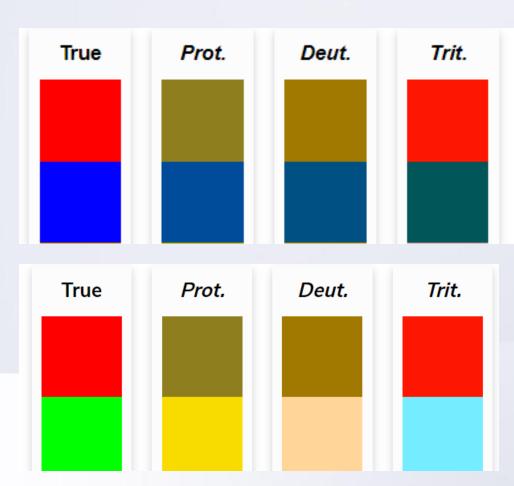
$$a=6 b=2$$

2x + 32 or $4x - 20$	M1	Accept ax + ab for M1
6x + 12 or 6(x + 2)	A1	
a = 6 and $b = 2$	A1 ft	ft from their $6x + 12$ if M1 earned SC2 $a = 6$ and $b = 12$ SC1 $a = 6$

Colour combinations?

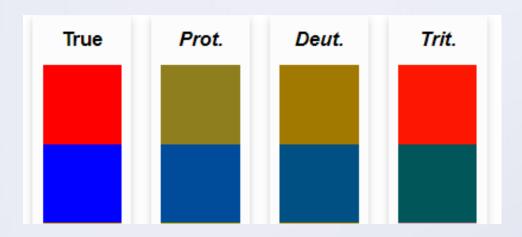
$$6a+4b+2a-5b$$
$$= 8a-b$$

$$6a+4b+2a-5b$$
$$= 8a-b$$



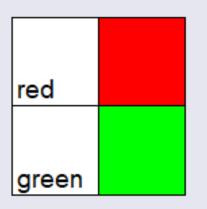
Colour combinations?

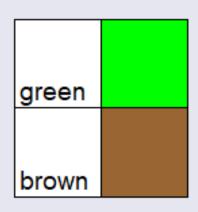
$$6a+4b+2a-5b$$
$$= 8a-b$$

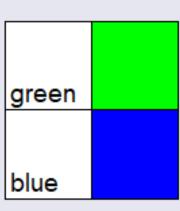


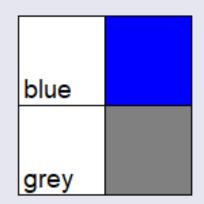
Colour combinations?

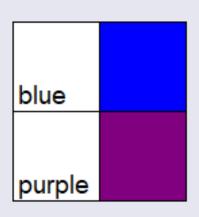
Avoid

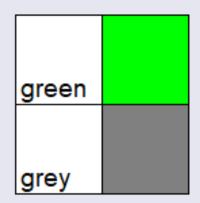


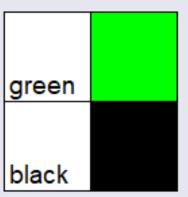












A Model for Great Teaching

Great Teaching Toolkit Evidence Review June 2020

04 Activating hard thinking

- Structuring: giving students an appropriate sequence of learning tasks; signalling learning objectives, rationale, overview, key ideas and stages of progress; matching tasks to learners' needs and readiness; scaffolding and supporting to make tasks accessible to all, but gradually removed so that all students succeed at the required level
- Interacting: responding appropriately to feedback from students about their thinking/knowledge/understanding; giving students actionable feedback to guide their learning

Explaining: presenting and communicating new ideas clearly, with concise, appropriate, engaging explanations; connecting new ideas to what has previously been learnt (and re-activating/checking that prior knowledge); using examples (and non-examples) appropriately to help learners understand and build connections; modelling/demonstrating new skills or procedures with appropriate scaffolding and challenge; using worked/part-worked examples

Embedding: giving students tasks that embed and reinforce learning; requiring them to practise until learning is fluent and secure; ensuring that once-learnt material is reviewed/revisited to prevent forgetting

- Questioning: using questions and dialogue to promote elaboration and connected, flexible thinking among learners (e.g., 'Why?', 'Compare', etc.); using questions to elicit student thinking; getting responses from all students; using high-quality assessment to evidence learning; interpreting, communicating and responding to assessment evidence appropriately
 - Activating: helping students to plan, regulate and monitor their own learning; progressing appropriately from structured to more independent learning as students develop knowledge and expertise

01 Understanding the content

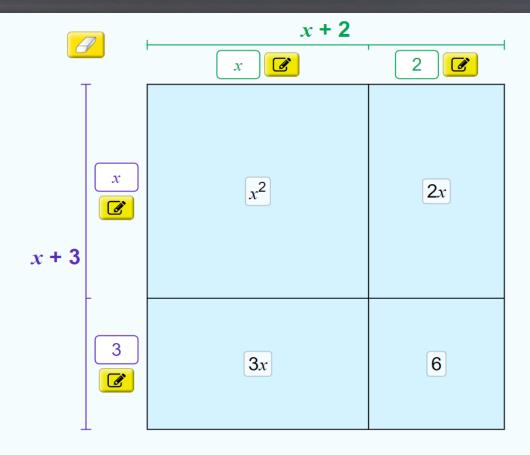
- Having deep and fluent knowledge and flexible understanding of the content you are teaching
- Knowledge of common student strategies, misconceptions and sticking points in relation to the content you are teaching
- Knowledge of the requirements of curriculum sequencing and dependencies in relation to the content and ideas you are teaching
- Knowledge of relevant curriculum tasks, assessments and activities, their diagnostic and didactic potential; being able to generate varied explanations and multiple representations/analogies/examples for the ideas you are teaching

17 Principles of Effective Instruction	9 Provide models of worked-out problems.
1 Begin a lesson with a short review of previous learning.	10 Ask students to explain what they have learned.
2 Present new material in small steps with student practice after each step.	11 Check the responses of all students.
3 Limit the amount of material students receive at one time.	12 Provide systematic feedback and corrections.
4 Give clear and detailed instructions and explanations.	13 Use more time to provide explanations.
5 Ask a large number of questions and check for understanding.	14 Provide many examples.
6 Provide a high level of active practice for all students.	15 Reteach material when necessary.
7 Guide students as they begin to practice.	16 Prepare students for independent practice.
8 Think aloud and model steps.	17 Monitor students when they begin independent practice.

MAKT Econol.

Algebra – expanding brackets

```
(2x + 3) (5x + 2) (4x + 1)
(10x^2 + 15x + 4x + 6) (4x + 1)
(10x^2 + 15x + 4x + 6) (4x + 1)
(10 x^2 + 19 x + 6) (4 x + 1)
(40 x^3 + 76 x^2 + 24 x + 10 x^2 + 19 x + 6)
(40 x^3 + 76 x^2 + 24 x + 10 x^2 + 19 x + 6)
(40 x^3 + 86 x^2 + 43 x + 6)
```



$$(x + 3)(x + 2)$$

$$(x)(x) + (x)(2) + (3)(x) + (3)(2)$$

$$x^{2} + 2x + 3x + 6$$

$$x^{2} + 5x + 6$$





Dimensions

$$(x + 3)(x + 2)$$

Total area of model

$$x^2 + 5x + 6$$

Partial products



Α



Area model calculation























Algebra - Factorisation

$$5x^2y + 15xy^2$$

$$5xy(x + 3y)$$

Students often find this method helpful

Algebra – factorisation of quadratic expressions

$$2x^{2}-7x-30$$
need factors of -60 which add to -7
-12 and 5
$$\frac{(2x-12)(2x+5)}{2}$$
= $(x-6)(2x+5)$

Algebra – Composite Functions

$$f(x) = 2x^2$$
, $g(x) = x+3$

- (a) Write down fg(4)
- (b) Write down gf(4)

Solution

(a) fg(4) is f(g(4)) so first we must work out g(4)

$$g(4) = 4 + 3 = 7$$

So
$$f(g(4)) = f(7) = 2 \times 7^2 = 2 \times 49 = 98$$

Algebra – Composite Functions

$$f(x) = 2x^2$$
, $g(x) = x+3$

- (a) Write down fg(4)
- (b) Write down gf(4)

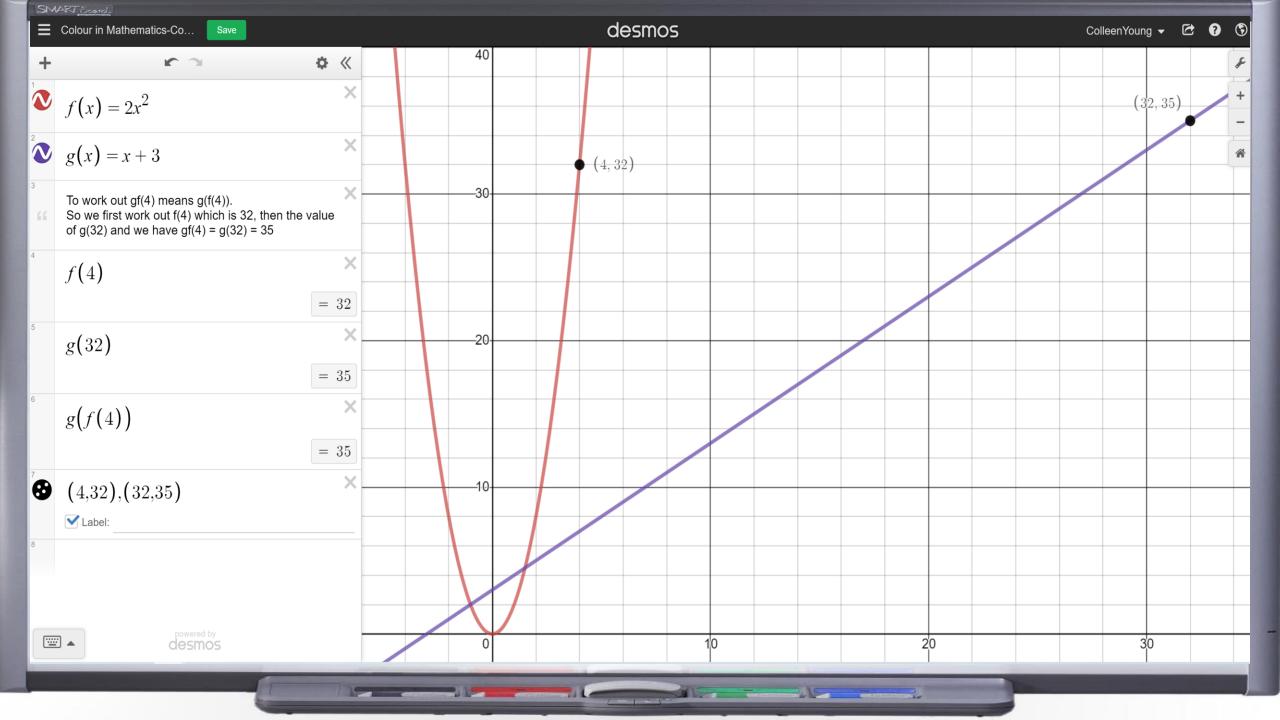
Solution

(b) gf(4) is g(f(4)) so first we must work out f(4)

$$f(4) = 2 \times 4^2 = 2 \times 16 = 32$$

So
$$g(f(4)) = g(32) = 32 + 3 = 35$$

Note that we can check values of functions on Desmos ...



Algebra – Composite Functions

$$f(x) = 2x^2$$
, $g(x) = x+3$

- (c) Write down fg(x)
- (d) Write down gf(x)

Solution

Looking at the algebra now to find f(g(x)), we need f(g(x)).

$$f(g(x)) = f(x+3) = 2(x+3)^2$$
.

$$2(x+3)^2 = 2(x^2+6x+9) = 2x^2 + 12x + 18$$

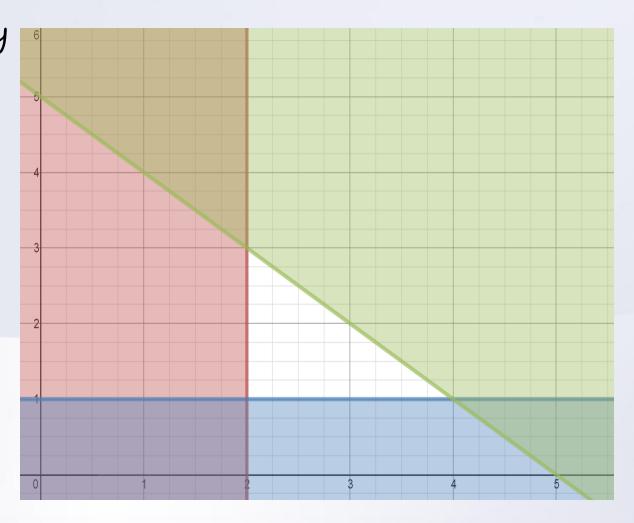
$$fg(x) = 2x^2 + 12x + 18$$

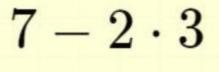
Inequalities

Show graphically the region satisfying the following inequalities

x+y ≤ 5

Note – required region left unshaded





 $5 \cdot 3$

7 - 6

15

1

Checking the order of operations

$$3x + 1 = 13$$

$$3x + 1 = 13$$

$$3x = 13 - 1$$

$$3x = 13 + 1$$

$$3x = 12$$

$$x = 4$$

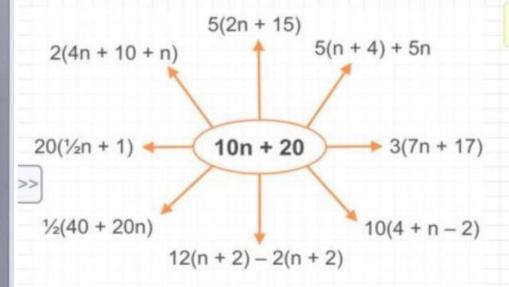
Highlight equivalence is excellent for checking work. Suppose we wish to solve the equation here, 3x+1=13. We know the series of steps on the left is correct as all are highlighted the same colour and are therefore equivalent. On the right-hand side the different colour shows the algebraic slip as the colour has changed, the equation is no longer equivalent.

NEW WHITEBOARD

Whiteboard Link: https://www.mathwhiteboard.com.

COPY LINK





which expressions are not the same as 10n + 20?

From Don Steward Don Steward - one incorrect simulification

Note that equivalent expressions are highlihted in the same colour.

$$10n + 20$$

$$5(n+4)+5n$$

$$5n + 20 + 5n$$

$$10n + 20$$

$$2(4n+10+n)$$

$$8n + 20 + 2n$$

$$10n + 20$$

$$3(7n + 17)$$

$$21n + 51$$

$$10(4+n-2)$$

$$40 + 10n - 20$$

$$10n + 20$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(40+20n)$$

$$20 + 10n$$

$$5(2n+15)$$

$$10n + 75$$

$$12n + 24 - 2n - 4$$

$$10n + 20$$

NEW WHITEBOARD

Whiteboard Link: https://www.mathwhiteboard.com.

COPY LINK











	- AM
Undo	Redo
OHIGO	Neur

3x -	- 1 =	13
------	-------	----

$$3x + 1 = 13$$

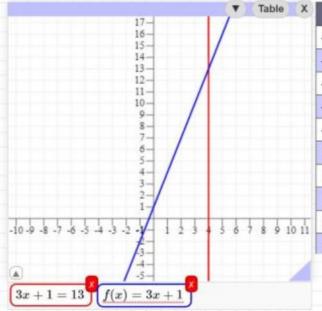
$$3x = 13 - 1$$

$$3x = 13 + 1$$

$$3x = 12$$

$$x = 4$$

Highlight equivalence is excellent for checking work. Suppose we wish to solve the equation here, 3x+1=13. We know the series of steps on the left is correct as all are highlighted the same colour and are therefore equivalent. On the right-hand side the different colour shows the algebraic slip as the colour has changed, the equation is no longer equivalent.

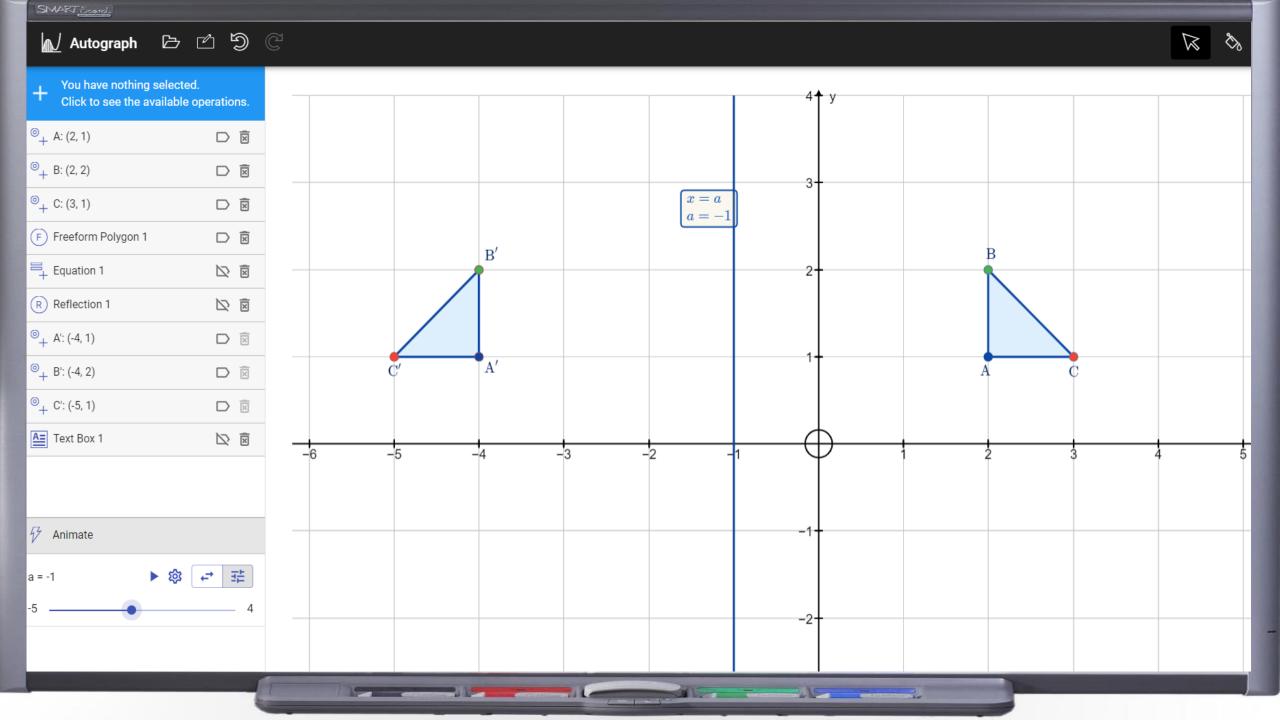


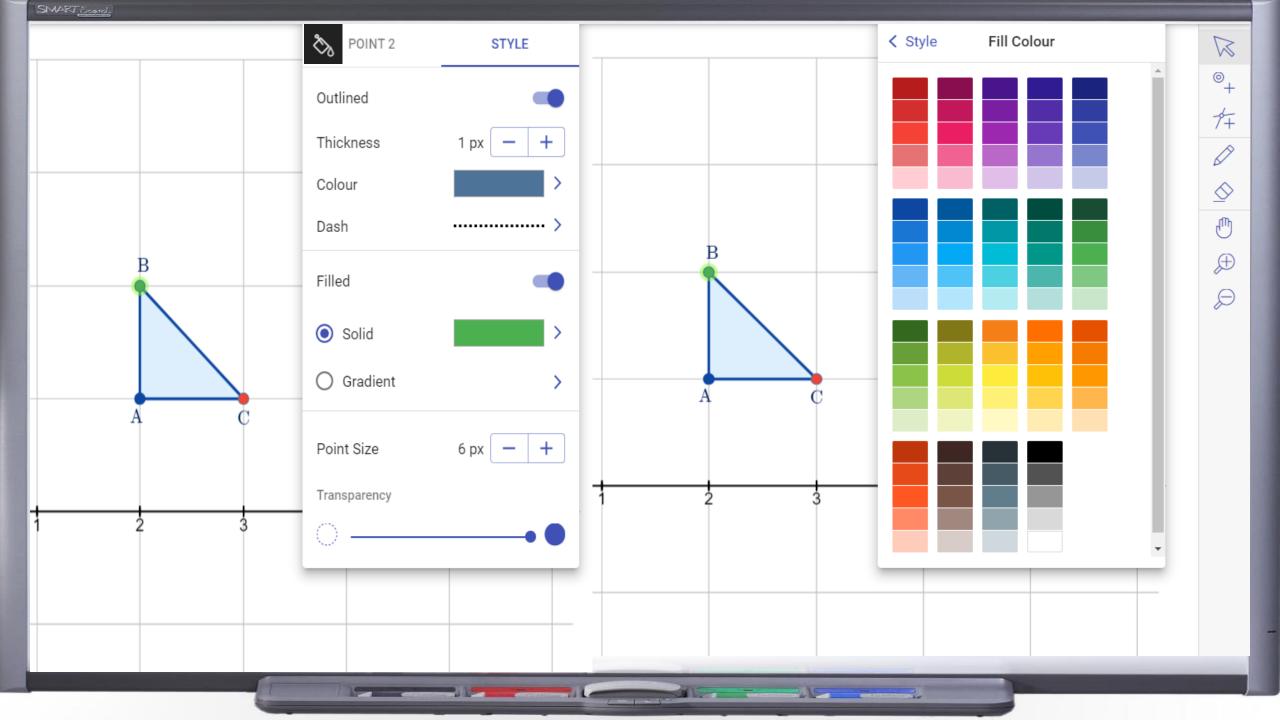
	3x+1=13	f(x)=3x+1
-5.000	4.000	-14.000
-4.000	4.000	-11.000
-3.000	4.000	-8.000
-2.000	4.000	-5.000
-1.000	4.000	-2.000
0.000	4.000	1.000
1.000	4.000	4.000
2.000	4.000	7.000
3.000	4.000	10.000
4.000	4.000	13.000

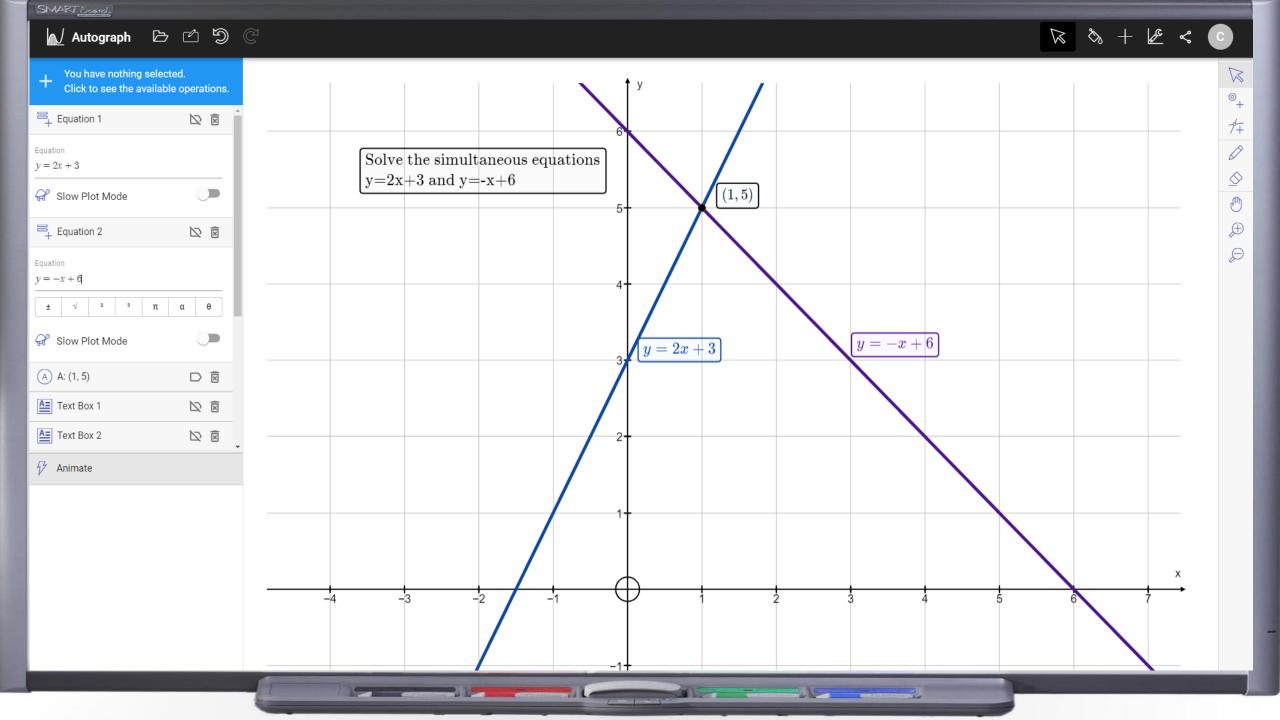
$$f(x) = 3x + 1$$

To insert a graph use the Insert menu then you can simply drag the Math type expression or expressions to the graph area.

Select Table for a table of values.

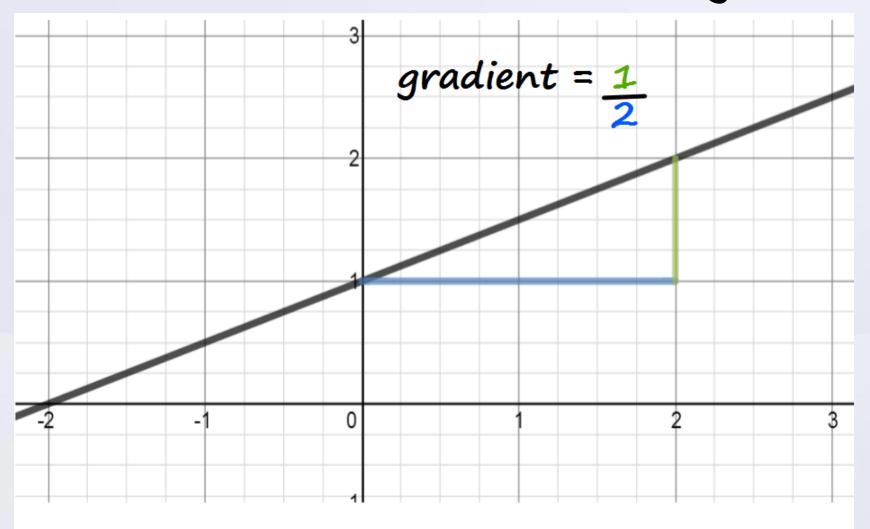






SWART Loand

Co-ordinate Geometry



Complete the square

$$x^2 + 10x + 28$$

$$=(x+5)^2-25+28$$

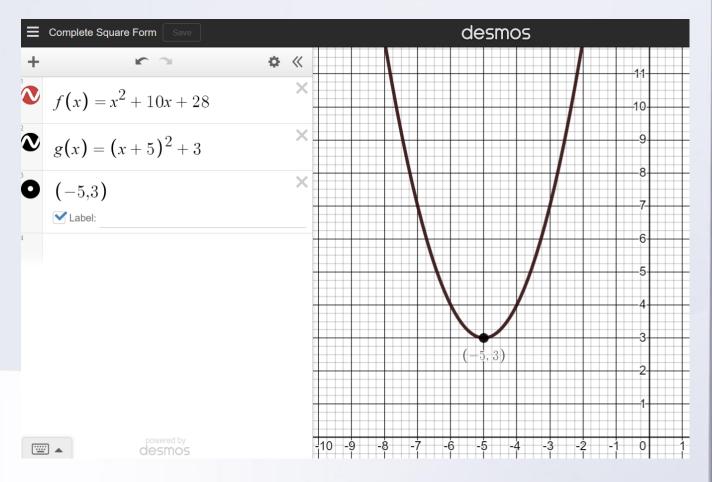
$$=(x+5)^2+3$$

Complete the square

$$x^2 + 10x + 28$$

$$=(x+5)^2-25+28$$

$$=(x+5)^2+3$$



Circle Geometry

Find the centre and radius:

$$x^{2}-4x+y^{2}+6y=12$$

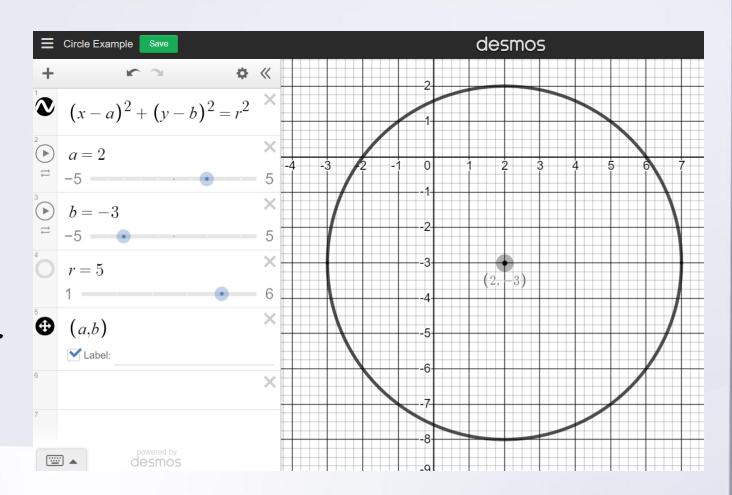
 $(x-2)^{2}-4+(y+3)^{2}-9=12$
 $(x-2)^{2}+(y+3)^{2}=25$

Circle Geometry $(x-a)^2+(y-b)^2=r^2$

$$(x-2)^2+(y+3)^2=25$$

$$(x-2)^2+(y--3)^2=25$$

$$a=2$$
 $b=-3$



SMART Loand

Solve

$$3^{3x} = 9^{x+1}$$

$$3^{3x}=3^{2(x+1)}$$

$$3^{3x}=3^{2x+2}$$

$$3^{3x}=3^{2x+2}$$

$$3x = 2x + 2$$

$$x=2$$

Check

$$3^{3\times2} = 3^6 = 729$$

$$9^{2+1} = 9^3 = 729 \checkmark$$

Binomial Expansion

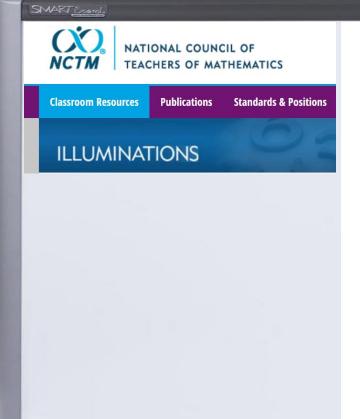


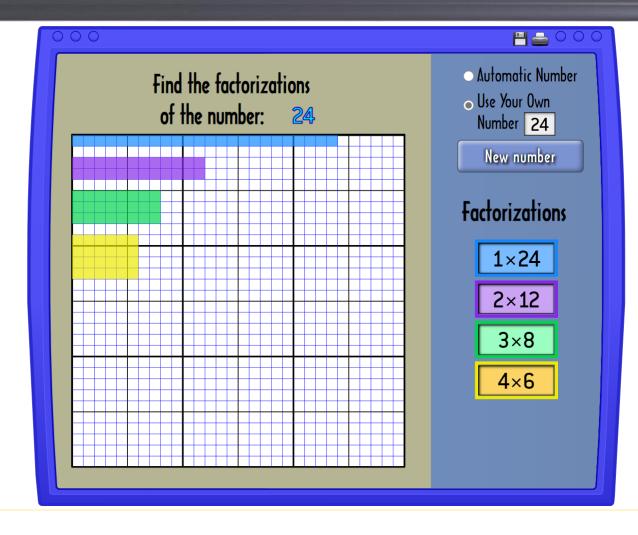
expand (a+b)^3 $\int_{\Sigma_0}^{\pi} \text{ Extended Keyboard } \underline{\bullet} \text{ Upload}$ Input interpretation: $expand \quad (a+b)^3$ Result: $a^3 + 3 a^2 b + 3 a b^2 + b^3$

Why $\frac{3}{3}a^2b$?

SWART Loand

$$(2+x)^5$$





Exploration

Follow the instructions to find factorizations for several numbers. As you work, see if you can answer these questions:

- Why do you think the length and width of the rectangles represent the factors of your numbers?
- Which number has the most factorizations? Which has the fewest? Why do you think this is?
- What kinds of numbers have only one factorization? What do the rectangles for these factorizations have in common?
- o If you double a number, what happens to the number of factorizations? Do you notice a pattern in the factorizations of your original number and the doubled number?



Cube







Print

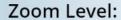
Reset



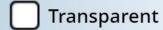












Shaded

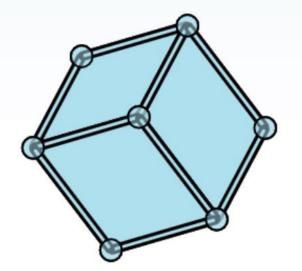
Faces (F) = 6 of 6

Edges (E) = 12 of 12

Vertices (V) = 8 of 8



Show Total



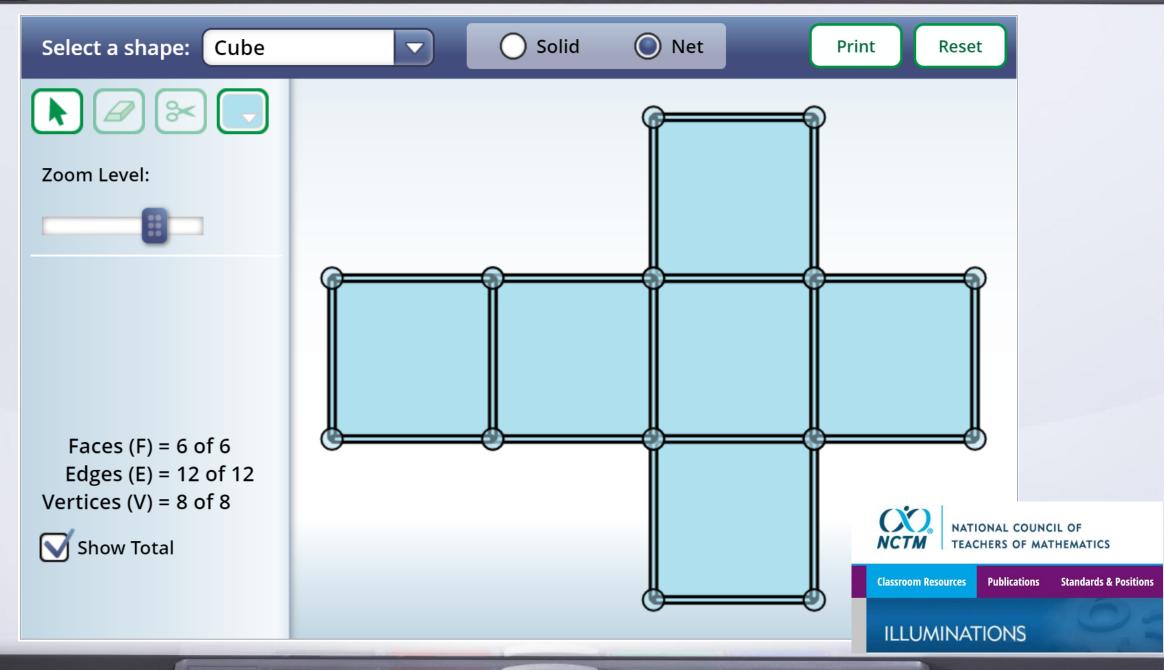


Classroom Resources

Publications

Standards & Positions

ILLUMINATIONS



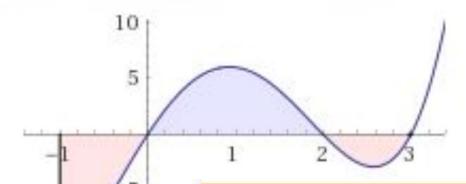
Prime Decomposition		Venn Diagram	LCM	HCF
3 6 3	28 7	3 2 7 2	3 x 3 x 2 x 2 x 7 = 252	2
3 7	3 5	7 3 5		3
2 2 2 2	18	2 2 C)	2x2x2x2x?x? =	

Integration

Definite integral:

$$\int_{-1}^{3} (x^4 - 3x^3 - 4x^2 + 12x) dx = -\frac{8}{15} \approx -0.53333$$

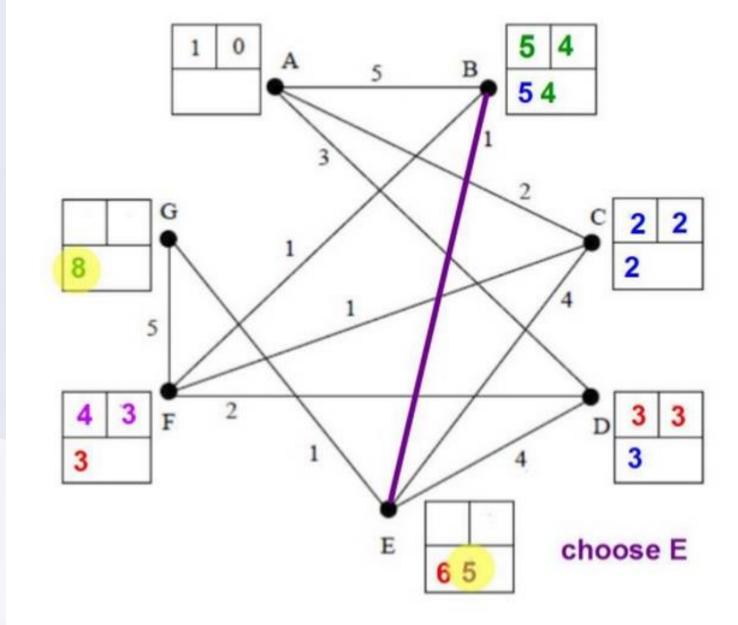
Visual representation of the integral:



Indefinite integral:

$$\int (x^4 - 3x^3 - 4x^2 + 12x) dx = \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{3x^4}{4} - \frac{4x^3}{3} + 6x^2 + \text{constant}$$

Decision Mathematics



Dijkstra's Algorithm

Enter the linear programming problem here:

subject to the constraints:

- Minimize
- Show only the region defined by the following contraints:

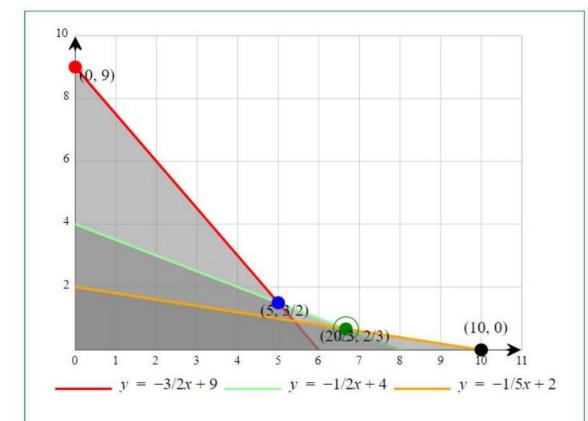
$$3x+2y>=18$$

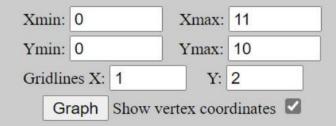
 $2x + 4y \ge 16$
 $10x + 50y \ge 100$

LP Examples		Graphing Examples	Solve
Rounding:	4	decimal places Fraction	n Mode 🗹
		Erase Everything	

The solution will appear below.

Vertex	Lines through vertex	Value of objective
• (5, 3/2)	3x + 2y = 18 $2x + 4y = 16$	17/5
• (0, 9)	3x + 2y = 18 $x = 0$	9
• (20/3, 2/3)	2x + 4y = 16 $10x + 50y = 100$	16/5 Minimum
• (10, 0)	10x + 50y = 100 $y = 0$	19/5





The use of colour can help clarity in online worked solutions for students.

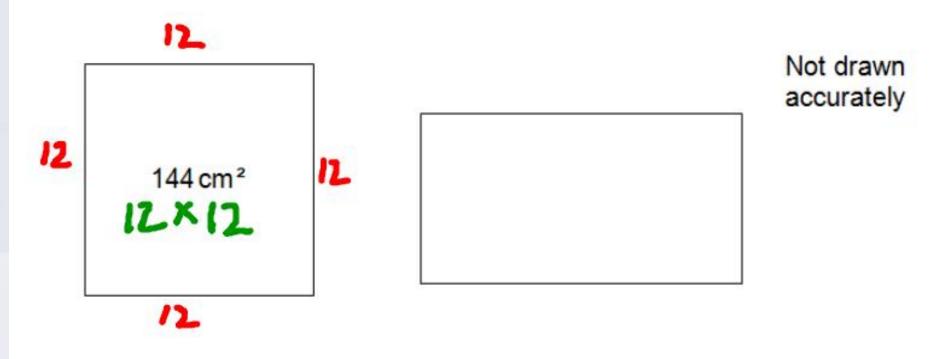
Interestingly, some students prefer a series of still images with no sound to videos as they can really dictate the pace themselves.

Some examples follow...

The perimeter of the square is equal to the perimeter of the rectangle.

The area of the square is 144 cm²

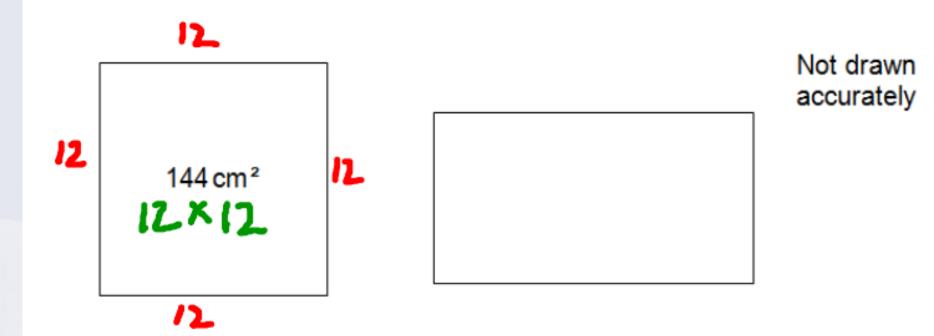
The length of the rectangle is four times the width of the rectangle.



The perimeter of the square is equal to the perimeter of the rectangle.

The area of the square is 144 cm²

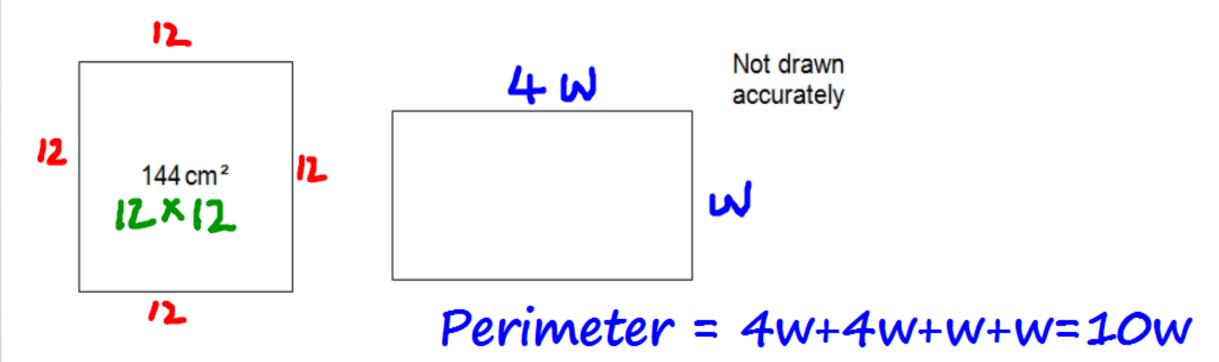
The length of the rectangle is four times the width of the rectangle.



The perimeter of the square is equal to the perimeter of the rectangle.

The area of the square is 144 cm²

The length of the rectangle is four times the width of the rectangle. Let width = W

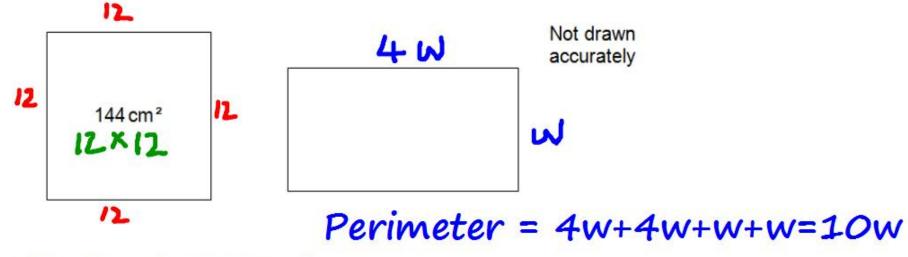


48 = 10 W

The perimeter of the square is equal to the perimeter of the rectangle.

The area of the square is 144 cm²

The length of the rectangle is four times the width of the rectangle. Let width = W



$$48 = 10w$$

$$W = 4.8$$

Two rectangles have the following dimensions

Perimeter equals 21 cm

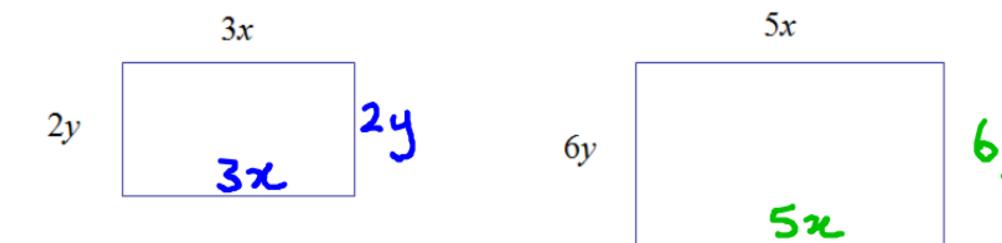
$$6x + 4y = 21$$

Work out x and y

$$6x + 4y = 21$$
 (1)

Perimeter equals 43 cm

Two rectangles have the following dimensions



Perimeter equals 21 cm

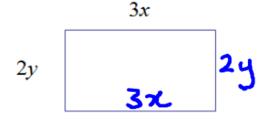
$$6x + 4y = 2$$

Work out x and y

Perimeter equals 43 cm

$$10x + 12y = 43$$

Two rectangles have the following dimensions



Perimeter equals 21 cm

$$6x + 4y = 21$$
Work out x and y

$$6x + 4y = 21$$
 (1)
 $10x + 12y = 43$ (2)

$$\frac{18x + 12y = 63}{10x + 12y = 43} (1) \times 3$$

$$= 20 \times = 2$$

Perimeter equals 43 cm

6*y*

$$10x + 12y = 43$$

13	63-18x = 43 - 10x	M1
	4 <i>y</i> =21-15	M1
	x = 2.5	A1
	<i>y</i> = 1.5	

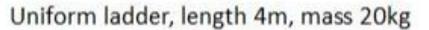
Interpretation following Chi Squared test. (ii) For each category of runner, comment briefly on how the type of running compares with what would be expected if there were no association.[6]

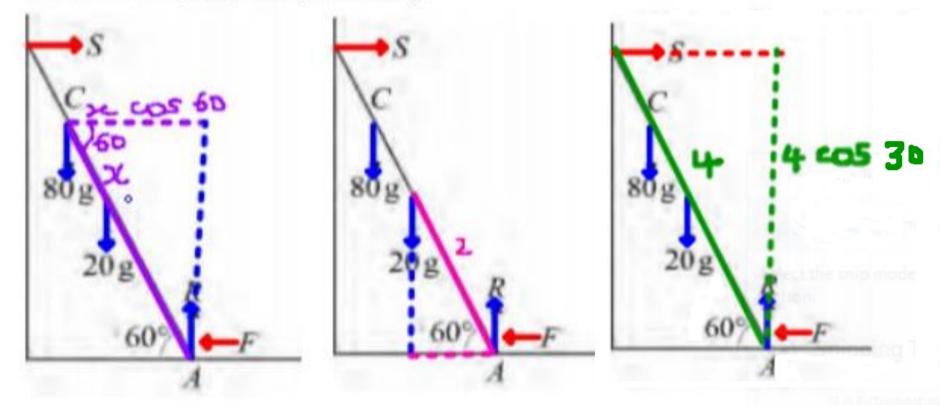
	Category of runner			
	Junior	Senior	Veteran	
Track	9	8	2	
Road	4	8	(12)	
Both	4	10	6	

EXPECTED	Junior	Senior	Veteran
Track	5.13	7.84	6.03
Road	6.48	9.90	7.62
Both	5.40	8.25	6.35
CONTRIBUTN	Junior	Senior	Veteran
CONTRIBUTN Track	Junior 2.9257	Senior 0.0032	Veteran 2.6949

 Juniors appear be track runners more often than expected and road less often than expected. 	E1 E1		
 Seniors tend to be as expected in all three categories of running. 	E1 E1		
Veterans tend to be road runners more than expected and track runners less than expected.	E1 E1	6	

Mechanicsmoments





$$= S.4\cos 30$$

$$40gx + 20g = 138.56g$$



Mathematics support materials

The **quotient rule** states that if u and v are both functions of x and

y then

if
$$y = \frac{u}{v}$$
, then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\left(v\frac{du}{dx} - u\frac{dv}{dx}\right)}{v^2}$

Note the minus sign in the numerator!

Example 2 Consider $y = 1/\sin(x)$. The derivative may be found by writing y = u/v where:

$$u = 1, \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{du}{dx} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad v = \sin(x), \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{dv}{dx} = \cos(x)$$

Inserting this into the **quotient rule** above yields:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin(x) \times 0 - 1 \times \cos(x)}{\sin^2(x)}$$
$$= -\frac{\cos(x)}{\sin^2(x)}$$

The census-taker problem

Example 1.1.3 A census-taker knocks on a door, and asks the woman inside how many children she has and how old they are.

"I have three daughters, their ages are whole numbers, and the product of the ages is 36," says the mother.

"That's not enough information," responds the census-taker.

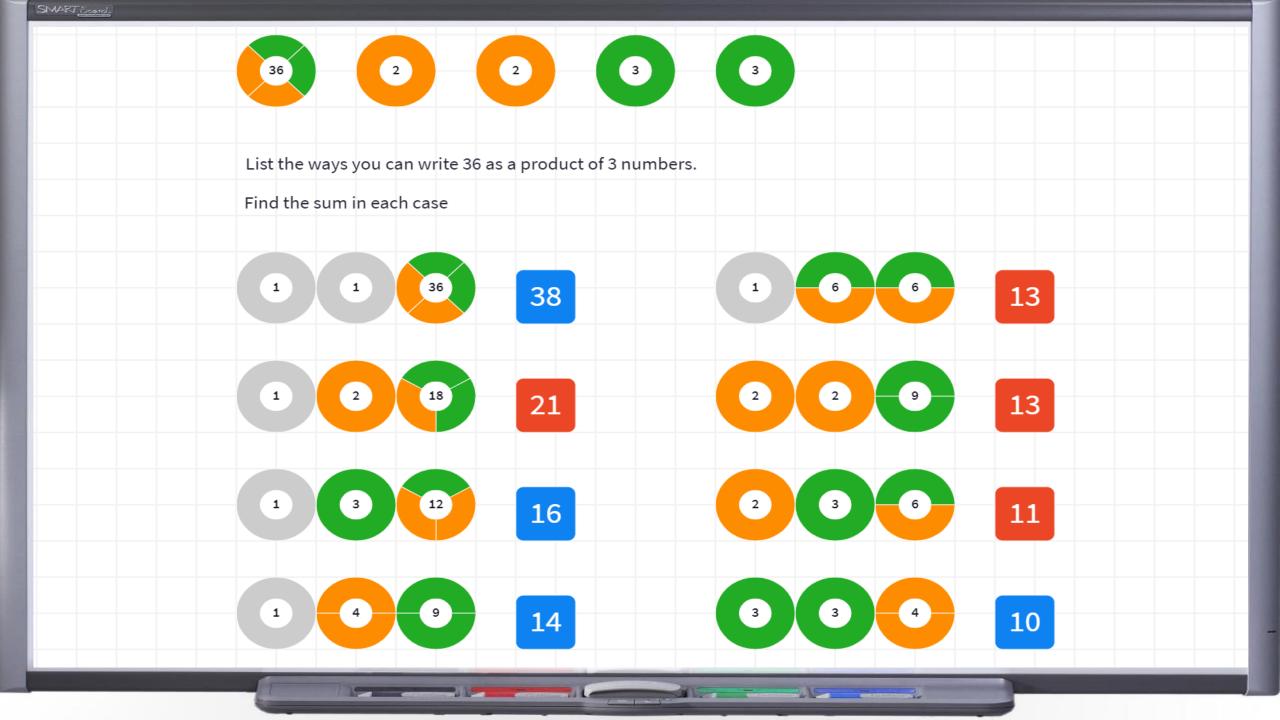
"I'd tell you the sum of their ages, but you'd still be stumped."

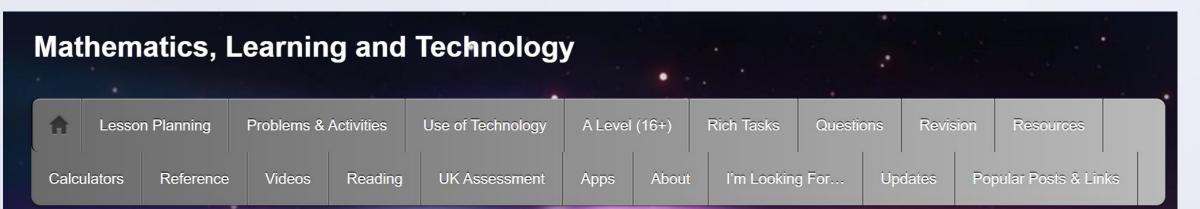
"I wish you'd tell me something more."

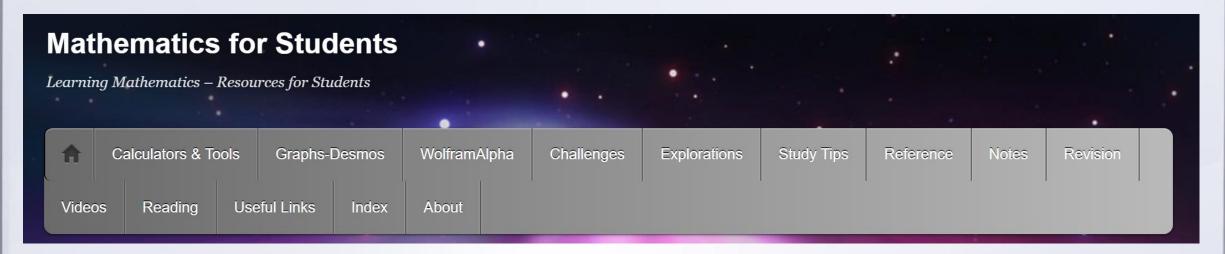
"Okay, my oldest daughter Annie likes dogs."

What are the ages of the three daughters?

Zeitz, P., 2007. The art and craft of problem solving. 2nd ed. John Wiley & Sons, Inc, p.2







Colleen Young – colleenyoung.org @ColleenYoung