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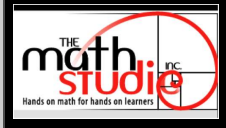
Algebra Game Notes

April 2012



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Happy Spring!

We are continuing to bring back some of the best ideas featured in previous Algebra Game Notes newsletters. The new readers can read about other teacher's earlier ideas.

If you haven't seen our new website, please come visit and tell us what you think.

Notes from Teachers

from 2009

Lakesha Johnson understands the instructional benefits of playing games even with algebra. She uses a Game Night at Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA, to motivate kids and their parents with a "Parents In Training" program. Here she describes how she used the cards from the Linear Graph sets....

"Open house is a fall staple in schools across the country. It is one of the most important days and also one of the most useful. This year, the staff decided to give the parents a taste of what it is really like to be a student in our classes. I immediately thought of the Algebra Game!"

"I have used the Algebra Game in my math classes for the past five years to help students solidify their understanding of linear equations. Each year the students compete to find out who can create all of the matches first. Our school record is 3 minutes and 27 seconds! I decided to challenge the parents to this task as well!"

"I told the students about the challenge a week and a half before the open house. They were psyched to "teach" their parents about slope, point pairs, y-intercept, and every other concept they needed to understand in order to succeed! The "Parents in Training" program was off to a great start. Students were eager to discuss their teaching methods and reported to the class on a daily basis."

"Open House came quickly. When the parents entered the room, I could tell they were ready! The students had three minutes to give their parents a pep talk. "Mom, don't forget to rise before

In This Issue

Notes from Teachers
Play Twenty Questions

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you run," I heard. "Dad, the y-intercept is on the y-axis," Asia screamed."

"Ready, set, go! The parents worked furiously to find the matches. They were laughing, screaming, and most importantly having fun! At the end of the night, we declared our winner. I even had a small trophy to commemorate the moment. It was the best Open House I have had in years!"

Read more about Ron Clark Academy

Play Twenty Questions with Factor Cards from Quadratic Equations Topic Set from The Algebra Game Program

Twenty Questions: Students ask 20 questions until they figure out the equation for the parabola. This can be a team, cooperative group, or whole class activity. Draw a card from one of the decks. Announce, "I have a quadratic Factor card. What is the equation?" Or choose another card type and announce it with the same question. Students take turns to ask questions with yes or no answers to collect information that allows them to figure out the quadratic equation. You may distribute copies of the Match Master
below for students to use as a guide. Samples of possible questions are: "Does the equation have an x squared in it?", "Is a coordinates point] on the parabola?", etc. Be sure to provide a winning reward to make it interesting.

Factor-Product Match Master II

Match without doing FOIL. Draw a line to connect the matched pairs. Write the number of the product in the blank.

Products	Factors	
1. $x^2 + 16x + 48$	a. $(x + 15)(x + 2)$	____
2. $x^2 + 14x + 48$	b. $(x + 12)(x + 4)$	1
3. $x^2 + 13x + 30$	c. $(x + 6)(x + 8)$	____
4. $x^2 + 17x + 30$	d. $(x + 4)(x + 1)$	____
5. $x^2 + 11x + 30$	e. $(x + 3)(x + 10)$	____
6. $x^2 - 5x + 4$	f. $(x - 4)(x - 1)$	____
7. $x^2 + 5x + 4$	g. $(x + 5)(x + 6)$	____
8. $x^2 - 11x + 30$	h. $(x + 6)(x - 5)$	____
9. $x^2 - 13x + 30$	i. $(x + 2)(x - 1)$	____
10. $x^2 + x - 2$	j. $(x - 6)(x - 5)$	____
11. $x^2 + 3x + 2$	k. $(x + 4)(x - 1)$	____
12. $x^2 + x - 30$	l. $(x - 3)(x - 10)$	____
13. $x^2 + 8x - 48$	m. $(x - 4)(x + 1)$	____
14. $x^2 + 3x - 4$	n. $(x + 2)(x + 1)$	____
15. $x^2 - 3x - 4$	o $(x - 4)(x + 12)$	____

Describe your reasoning for the matches you made.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

Factor-Product Match Master II Answer Sheet

Match without doing FOIL. Draw a line to connect the matched pairs. Write the number of the product in the blank.

Products	Factors	
1. $x^2 + 16x + 48$	a. $(x + 15)(x + 2)$	4
2. $x^2 + 14x + 48$	b. $(x + 12)(x + 4)$	1
3. $x^2 + 13x + 30$	c. $(x + 6)(x + 8)$	2
4. $x^2 + 17x + 30$	d. $(x + 4)(x + 1)$	7
5. $x^2 + 11x + 30$	e. $(x + 3)(x + 10)$	3
6. $x^2 - 5x + 4$	f. $(x - 4)(x - 1)$	6
7. $x^2 + 5x + 4$	g. $(x + 5)(x + 6)$	5
8. $x^2 - 11x + 30$	h. $(x + 6)(x - 5)$	12
9. $x^2 - 13x + 30$	i. $(x + 2)(x - 1)$	10
10. $x^2 + x - 2$	j. $(x - 6)(x - 5)$	8
11. $x^2 + 3x + 2$	k. $(x + 4)(x - 1)$	14
12. $x^2 + x - 30$	l. $(x - 3)(x - 10)$	9
13. $x^2 + 8x - 48$	m. $(x - 4)(x + 1)$	15
14. $x^2 + 3x - 4$	n. $(x + 2)(x + 1)$	11
15. $x^2 - 3x - 4$	o. $(x - 4)(x + 12)$	13

Describe your reasoning for the matches you made.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

Learn more about Quadratic Equations Topic Set

About Us

The Math Studio, Inc., has been helping teachers help students for over 30 years. We are looking forward to more!

Sincerely,

Catheryne Draper
The Math Studio Inc

April is Mathematics Education Month
To help celebrate we are offering a 30% discount on the
Quadratic Equations Topic Set this month only.
Buy one for your classroom or buy many for the entire school system. Help your kids play their Algebra with a full deck!

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Download *an order form* and attach this coupon. Orders must be postmarked by April 30th. Be sure to add the

shipping.