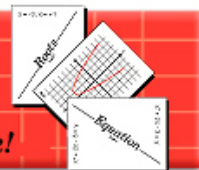


The Algebra Game

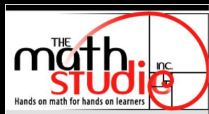
Play your Algebra with a full deck!



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Algebra Game Notes

March 2012



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Happy Pi Day Algebra!

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

"Just a quick note to let you know that I used the Algebra cards yesterday for a student who couldn't understand the concept of slope and the Y2-Y1 over X2-X1 concept. Another student joined us and the three of us played Fish with the slope and graph cards and that format made the one student feel relaxed and "get it". He felt that he had a breakthrough and was able to pass a test after one session with the cards! Another teacher also played "fish" with the cards, and the kids in her class felt that they were more knowledgeable. Thank you!!!!"

Lisa Swazey, Special Ed teacher, Sandborn Regional High School, NH

As Lisa and her kids learned, sometimes it is best to use just a few of the cards that match at any given time so that the students can focus on the specific connection between those two or three cards. Sometimes it works well to mix the decks, deck a and deck c in the beginning and then later deck b and deck d.

Using Algebra Game Decks with Patty Paper

Hands-on and tactile support for the abstract

This picture should look like 4 green

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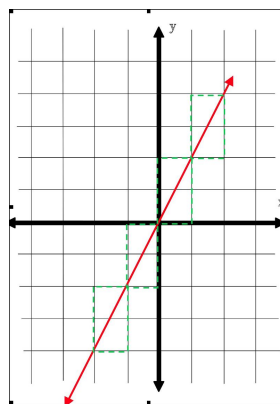
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dashed rectangles each green rectangle with a width = 1 and a height = 2 so that the red line is the diagonal going through the rectangles. This is an example of the rectangles to imagine (or draw on patty paper) around all of the lines on your graphs. When you use patty paper on the graphs, put one sheet of the paper on top of each graph card and trace the rectangle on the patty paper. It is better to not draw on the graph cards themselves. The removal of the rectangle actually helps students to visually extract (figure ground) the information from the graph picture.



Patty paper sheets are boxed in 4" squares and can be purchased from most supplementary catalogs or from many teacher stores. Otherwise, get tracing paper and cut the sheets. When students can actually draw on the patty paper and then move the "stairstep" away from the graph then they can more easily see how the steps work for slope. The pictures in textbooks already have the rectangles drawn on the graph so some students have difficulty extracting the information - figure ground distinction.

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

In honor of Pi Day - 3.14....

Download some activities to encourage your students to get involved.

www.piday.org

www.Exploratorium.edu

www.nctm.org