Solving Systems of Equations By Graphing

Date:

Subject: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, or Algebra II	
Grade: 7, 8, or 10	

Topic: Systems of Equations **Designer:** Jessica Ulcickas

Stage 1 – Desired Results

Lesson Overview: This activity takes real world applications of systems of equations and has students look at graphs and use them to analyze the meaning of a given situation. The activity is intended for pre-algebra or algebra I students who are learning about systems of equations for the first time, or algebra II students who are reviewing systems of equations or need extra help with the subject. By the end of the activity, students will be able to graph a system of equations on the same x-y axes and identify the solution to a system of linear equations. Students will also gain a generalized understanding of how to analyze given situations involving systems of equations in a real life setting.

Standards Addressed:

CCSS.Math.Content.HSA-CED.A.2 Create equations in two or more variables to represent relationships between quantities; graph equations on coordinate axes with labels and scales.

CCSS.Math.Content.HSA-REI.C.6 Solve systems of linear equations exactly and approximately (e.g., with graphs), focusing on pairs of linear equations in two variables.

Enduring Understanding:	Essential Questions:
A system of equations is a set of two or more	What does the solution of a system of
equations in two or more variables. A linear	equations represent?
system of equations is a set of two or more	
linear equations. A linear system of two	How can we relate systems of equations to a
equations can be classified in one of three	real world situation?
ways: consistent independent, consistent	
dependent, and inconsistent. A consistent	How can a graph of a system of equations
dependent system consists of two lines that	reveal the solution to the system?
intersect in a single location. This location is	
the solution to the system. A consistent	
dependent system consists of two equations	
that represent the same line, therefore they	
intersect in infinitely many locations and there	
are infinitely many solutions that satisfy both	
equations. An inconsistent system is a system	
with no solutions as the two lines are parallel	
and will never intersect.	

Students will need to know:	Students will be able to:
At this point, students are expected to	• Graph two linear equations on the same x-
understand how to graph a line given in slope-	y axes.
intercept form, how to graph a line using x-	• Identify the solution of a system of
and y-intercepts, how to re-arrange a linear	equations after graphing.
equation so it is in slope-intercept form, and	• Classify a system of equations based on
how to solve equations containing a single	the graph of the system.
variable.	

Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence

 Performance Tasks: In this activity: Asking students to graph two lines on the same x-y axes. Asking students to identify the solution 	Other Evidence:To be decided by the teacher.
to a system of equations from a graph.Asking students to classify a system of equations from a graph.	

Stage 3 – Learning Plan

Lesson Procedure:	Required Materials:
Many Days Before: Students have previously completed a unit on graphing lines. This activity can be used as an introduction to systems of equations. Day Of:	 Computers for each student. Pencil and paper for calculations if necessary.
Students will go to the computer lab in order to complete this activity. For the duration of the activity, the teacher will monitor student progress to ensure that students complete the activity properly and do not simply click to complete. The activity will not take all class period, so the remainder of the class period will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher.	

Possible Discussion Questions for Students:	Sample Answers to Discussion Questions:
• Why do you believe that intersecting lines and coinciding lines are both classified as consistent while parallel lines are classified as inconsistent?	• Consistent may refer to the fact that the system actually contains at least one solution, while an inconsistent system has no solutions.
• What do you believe may be an example of a real life situation that would use systems of equations?	• Answers will vary here as this will be a difficult question for students to answer immediately. Students may gravitate towards monetary problems such as looking at where profit and cost lines intersect.