

PRODUCTS

The Algebra Game: Linear Graphs: Collaborative Activities and Games to Strengthen Understanding

2016. Grades 7–12, \$49.95.

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The Algebra Game: Linear Graphs provides activities to help prealgebra and algebra 1 students make sense of representations of linear functions. Each card set includes different representations of linear functions: equations in slope-intercept form, graphs, tables of coordinate pairs, y -intercepts, slopes, and equations in standard form. The game includes four decks of cards that build in complexity—starting with slopes of only +1 and y -intercepts at zero and moving to nonzero y -intercepts and the use of integers and fractions. The activities offer access to a range of mathematical understanding, from locating points on a coordinate grid to matching representations to systems of linear equations.

Activities have directions for students to fulfill specified roles in small groups, helping support collaborative learning in the classroom. Activities include questions for students to answer individually and in groups.

Topics include making comparisons, looking for patterns, and explaining answers. Students can also develop their own questions and answers and design their own activities. One drawback of the game is that the cards have the type of representation printed on the card, eliminating the option of having students identify each representation. Teachers need to consider how to ensure students develop their own understanding of concepts, as some of the activities are focused on teacher direction.

Through the use of multiple card sets, teachers can differentiate activities for students and support student investigations of linear functions.

Overall, this game presents effective activities that support students in making interesting connections among different types of representations of linear functions.

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