

THE CARTESIAN PLANE

The xy -plane is also called the Cartesian plane and is named after the mathematician René De Cartes.

The horizontal axis is called the x - axis and the Vertical axis is called the y -axis.

The x -axis and y -axis meet at the origin. All points can be labeled with co-ordinates and expressed as ordered pairs, (x, y).

The xy -plane is divided into four quadrants, called quadrants 1, 2, 3, and 4. (I,II,III,IV)
Always label the axes and mark the scale, as shown, on the xy -plane.

ACTIVITY:

Use this xy -plane to complete questions 1 to 3.

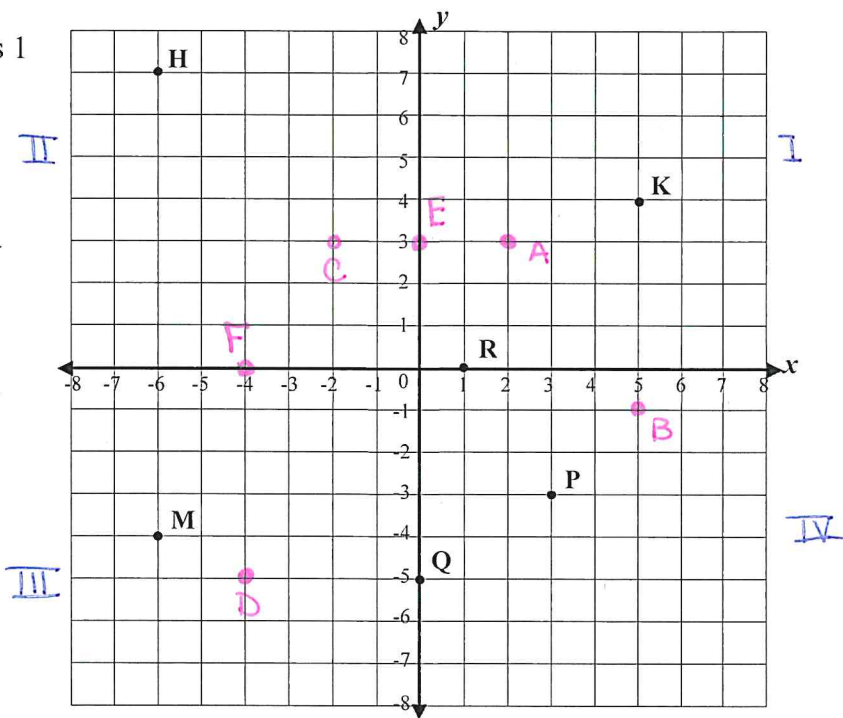
1. State the coordinates of each point. II

H: (-6, 7) K: (5, 4)

M: (-6, -4) P: (3, -3)

Q: (0, -5) R: (1, 0)

2. Identify where each of the four quadrants are located.



3. Graph these points on the xy -plane above. Include the labels (the capital letter).

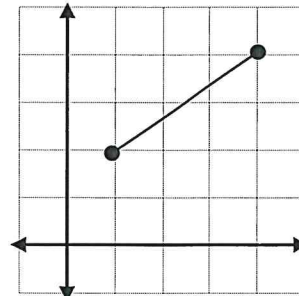
- A(2, 3) B(5, -1) C(-2, 3) D(-4, -5) E(0, 3) F(-4, 0)

SLOPE

Linear Relation: The relationship between two variables that appears as a line on a graph

Slope: Measures the steepness of a line.

- It measures the “rate of change” of one point with respect to another point.
- Ask: For every unit change in “y”, how much does “x” change?



RISE: The vertical distance between two points on a line

RUN: The horizontal distance between two points on a line

CALCULATING SLOPE:

The variable used to represent slope is “m”

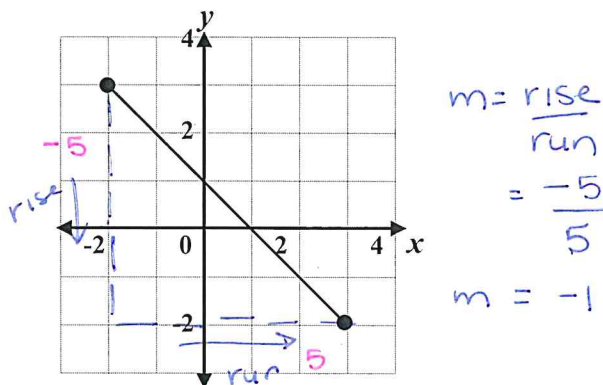
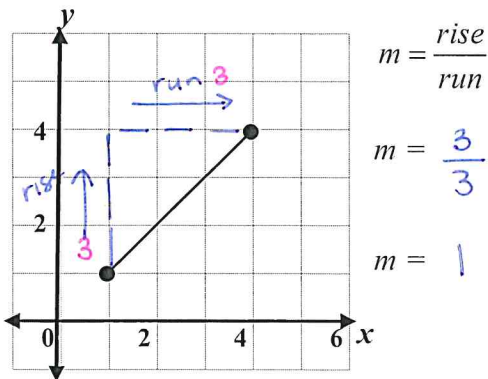
To calculate slope, use the equation:

$$\text{Slope (m)} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$$

↑ vertical distance

↑ horizontal distance

Examples:



POSITIVE vs. NEGATIVE SLOPE

Positive Slope: Follow the line from left to right: the line goes up.

Negative Slope: Following the line from left to right: the line goes down.