

Functions 2

Reporting Category Functions

Topic Investigating domain, range, intercepts, and zeros

Primary SOL A.7 The student will investigate and analyze function (linear and quadratic) families and their characteristics both algebraically and graphically, including

- b) domain and range;
- c) zeros of a function;
- d) x - and y -intercepts;
- e) finding the values of a function for elements in its domain; and
- f) making connections between and among multiple representations of functions including concrete, verbal, numeric, graphic, and algebraic

Related SOL A.1, A.4, A.6

Materials

- Graphing calculators
- Exploring Functions activity sheet (attached)

Vocabulary

domain, range, independent variable, dependent variable, function
 y -intercept (A.6), x -intercept, zero (A.7)

Student/Teacher Actions (what students and teachers should be doing to facilitate learning)

1. Ask students whether they have ever felt pressure in their ears when they were underwater. Ask whether they ever wondered how fireworks shows are orchestrated. Tell them these situations, along with many others, can be related to mathematics and functions. They will explore two situations—one concerning the amount of pressure on a submarine’s hull as it descends in the water and one concerning the height of a firework over time.
2. Distribute copies of the Exploring Functions activity sheet, and have students complete it in pairs or small groups, thus allowing for discussion while they work.
3. After students have completed the handout, facilitate a whole-class discussion, using some or all of the following questions and ideas:
 - What did you find for the domain and range, given your graph?
 - How did the situation change the domain and range? (You may want to introduce and discuss set-builder notation for domain and range.)
 - How did you find other values of the function?
 - Did you use the graph or the equation? Why, or why not?
 - What do you notice about the x -intercepts and the zeros?
 - Why do you think we call them “zeros”?

Assessment

- **Questions**

- Both of the situations on the Exploring Functions activity sheet limited the domain and range to positive values. Can you think of situations that would allow for negative values in either the domain or range, or both? If so, explain.
- Explain how you can identify the domain and range, given a graph, table, or equation.
- Explain how you can identify the x - and y -intercepts, given a graph, table, or equation.

- **Journal/Writing Prompts**

- Give an example of a real-life situation that is a function, and explain the type of function (linear, quadratic) it is. Explain whether and how the domain and range of the function are restricted, given the situation. Explain what the x -intercept and the y -intercept represent in the situation.

- **Other**

- Give students a variety of functions, using different representations (concrete, verbal, numeric, graphic, and algebraic), and have them identify domain, range, x -intercept, y -intercept, and zeros for each.

Extensions and Connections (for all students)

- Have students explore more real-life situations involving functions in order to explore domains, ranges, x -intercepts, y -intercepts, and zeros. Include in these situations functions other than linear and quadratic, such as step functions or exponential functions.
- Have students rewrite the functions used in class in function notation. Ask them to find function values, given domain values, using function notation.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Demonstrate calculations on a large-screen calculator.
- Have students draw pictorial representations of the problems.
- If needed for ELL students, explain some of the vocabulary unique to the specific problems (e.g., *submarine hull*, *fireworks*).

Exploring Functions

Name _____ Date _____

1. As a submarine descends into the ocean, the pressure on its hull increases, as recorded in the table at right.
 - a. Using words and symbols, describe a function that relates the depth of the submarine and the pressure on its hull.

Depth (meters)	Pressure ($\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{cm}^2}$)
0	0
300	32
600	64
900	96
1,200	128
1,500	160

- b. Using a graphing calculator, graph the function that relates the depth of the submarine and the pressure on its hull. Make a sketch of the graph below.

- c. Give the domain and range of the function.

- d. How does the situation restrict the domain and range of the function?

- e. When the submarine is submerged at 1,575 meters, what is the pressure on the hull?

- f. If the hull pressure is $240\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{cm}^2}$, at what depth is the submarine?

- g. Give the x-intercept and y-intercept of this function. What do they represent in the situation?

2. When a firework launches with an initial velocity of 150 feet per second from a 25 foot platform, the height of the firework over time can be modeled using the equation $y = -16t^2 + 150t + 25$, where t is the time in seconds
- Using a graphing calculator, graph the function that relates the height of the firework to the number of seconds the firework is in the air. Make a sketch of the graph below.
 - Give the domain and range of the function.
 - How does the situation restrict the domain and range of the function?
 - Determine the height of the firework after 3 seconds.
 - How long will it take the firework to reach a height of 375 feet?
 - Give the x -intercept and y -intercept of this function. What do they represent in the situation?
 - What are the zeros of this function? What do they represent in the situation?