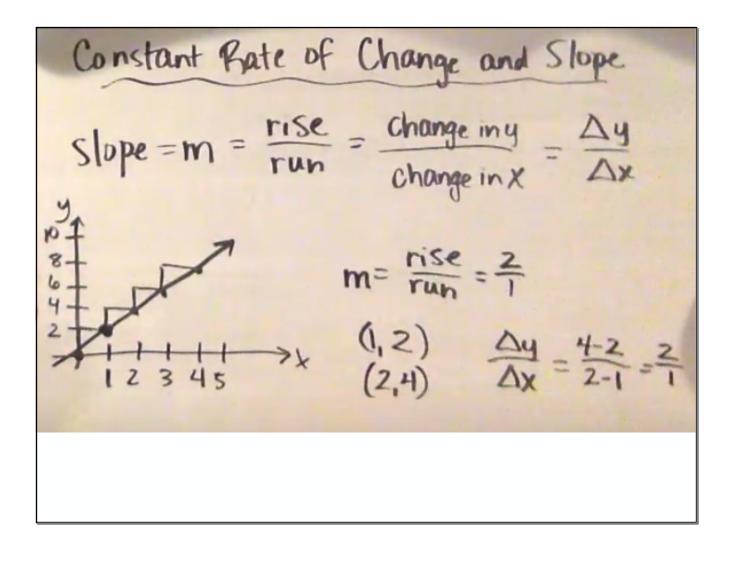


Constant Rate of Change and Slope Kate of charge describes how one amount changes compared to another amount. A linear relationship has a constant rate of change. It is called Slope. Slope also shows the steepness of a line



Constant Rate of Change and Slope $\frac{\text{Slope} = \text{m} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\text{change in y}}{\text{change in x}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$ $\frac{x}{12} \frac{y}{48} \frac{x}{12} \frac{y}{(12,6)} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{8-6}{24-12} = \frac{2}{1.2}$ $\frac{1.2}{3.6} \frac{10}{12} \frac{1.6}{12} \frac{1.6}{12} \text{ or } 12 = 5$ 1312,00 or 13=5



Constant Rate of Change and Slope

A **rate of change** is a rate that describes how one quantity changes in relation to another quantity. A **linear relationship** has a constant rate of change, which means that the rates of change between any two data points is the same.

Example Gina recorded the height of a tomato plant in her garden. Find the constant rate of change for the plant's growth in the graph shown. Then interpret its meaning.

Step 1 Choose any two points on the line, such as (3, 5) and (7, 15).

Step 2 Find the rate of change between the points.

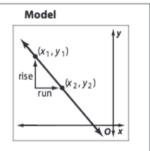
rate of change = $\frac{\text{change in height}}{\text{change in time}} = \frac{15 \text{ in.} - 5 \text{ in.}}{7 \text{ wk} - 3 \text{ wk}} = \frac{10 \text{ in.}}{4 \text{ wk}} = 2.5 \text{ in./wk}$

The rate of change 2.5 in./wk means the plant is growing at a rate of 2.5 inches per week.

Note that the **slope** is the same for any two points on a straight line. It represents a constant rate of change.

Words The slope *m* of a line passing through points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) is the ratio of the difference in the *y*-coordinates to the corresponding difference in *x*-coordinates.

Symbols



Rice Prices

5

Height of Tomato Plant

Weeks

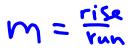
2 3 4 5 6 7 8

0 1

Exercises

 Find the constant rate of change for the linear function at the right and interpret its meaning.

 $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$, where

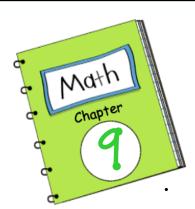


12 10 8 6 4 2 0 1 2 3 4 Pounds

Find the slope of the line that passes through each pair of points.

A(2, 2), B(-5, 4)
L(5, 5), M(4, 2)
R(7, -4), S(7, 3)
Q(3, 9), R(-5, 3)
G(5, 7), H(2, 7)
S(-8, -2), T(1, 4)

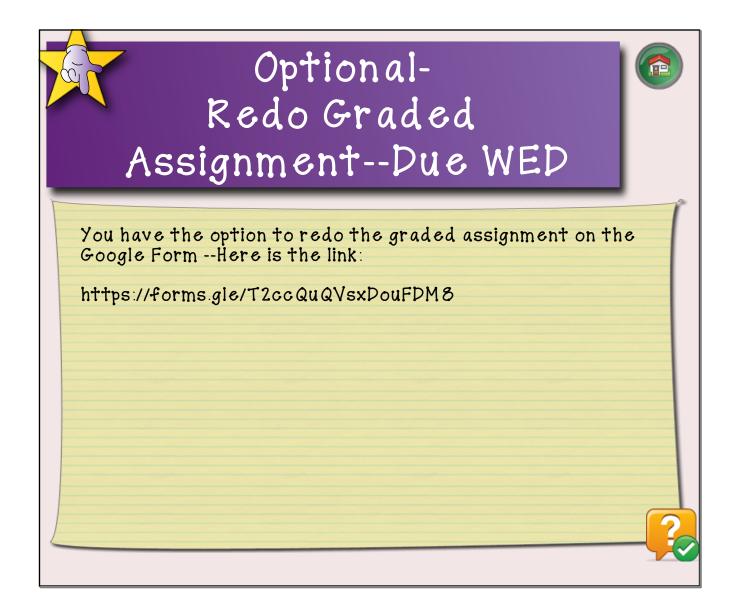
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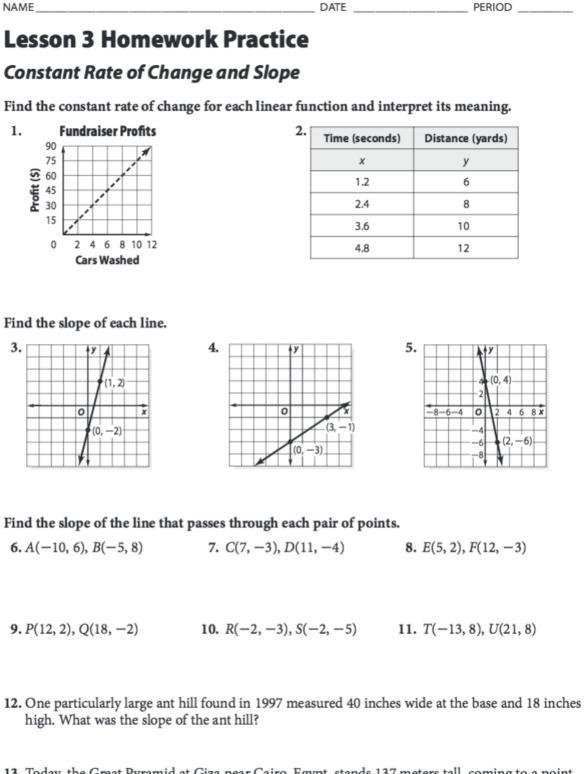
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Functions

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13. Today, the Great Pyramid at Giza near Cairo, Egypt, stands 137 meters tall, coming to a point. Its base is a square with each side measuring 230 meters wide. What is the slope of the pyramid?