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Precalculus
Purpose: In this problem set, you will recall and explore the properties and types of linear functions.
We will work with distance and average rate of change.

## DISTANCE

1. Given two points $x_{1}$ and $x_{2}$ on a number line, what is the distance between them?
2. Given two points $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right)$ and $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$, what is the distance between them?
(a) Sketch two random points on the coordinate axis below, preferably not in line with each other. Label one $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right)$ and the other $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$.

(b) Connect the points with a line and sketch a right triangle with that line as the hypotenuse. (Check with Sarah before proceeding.)
(c) What are the lengths of the legs of the triangle?
(d) What is the length of the hypotenuse?
(e) What is the distance between the two points? This is called the distance formula.

## MIDPOINT

1. Given two points $x_{1}$ and $x_{2}$ on a number line, what is the midpoint between them?
2. Given two points $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right)$ and $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$, what is the midpoint between them?
(a) Sketch two random points on the coordinate axis below, preferably not in line with each other. Label one $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right)$ and the other $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$.

(b) Connect the points with a line and sketch a right triangle with that line as the hypotenuse.
(c) What are the midpoints of the legs of the triangle? (Check with Sarah before proceeding.)
(d) What is the midpoint of the hypotenuse?
(e) What is the midpoint between the two points? This is called the midpoint formula.

## LINES

Definition: The slope $m$ between two points $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right)$ and $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$ is given by

How are slope and average rate of change related?

## Forms of linear functions:

- Point-Slope Form:
- Slope-Intercept Form:
- Standard Form:

1. Using our connection between slope and average rate of change, when is a linear function increasing? Give an example of such a line.
2. When is a linear function decreasing? Give an example of such a line.

## PRACTICE

Suppose the two points $(-3,-2)$ and $(3,-10)$ are on the graph of $y=h(x)$.

1. Find the distance between these two points.
2. Find the midpoint between these two points.
3. Find the distance between the midpoint and the point $(-3,-2)$.
4. If $h(x)$ is linear, is the midpoint on the graph of $y=h(x)$ ?
5. Is the function $h(x)$ increasing? Decreasing?
6. Find the average rate of change between the two points.
7. Find the equation of the line passing between these two points in slope-intercept form and point-slope form.
8. What is the $y$-intercept of $y=h(x)$ ? $x$-intercept?
