

Notes 1.8 – The Coordinate Plane

1. Distance Formula

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

$$\begin{matrix} (5, 2) & (-4, -1) \\ x_1, y_1 & x_2, y_2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \sqrt{(-4 - 5)^2 + (-1 - 2)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(-9)^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{81 + 9} = \sqrt{90} \\ &= 9.5 \end{aligned}$$

2. Midpoint of a segment

$$M = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

$$\begin{matrix} Q(3, 5) & , & S(7, -9) \\ x_1, y_1 & & x_2, y_2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\frac{3+7}{2}, \frac{5+(-9)}{2} \right) \\ &(5, -2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{matrix} +6 & & +6 \\ \left. \begin{matrix} (-3, -2) \\ (3, 4) \\ (-9, 10) \end{matrix} \right\} & & +6 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} (9, 10) \\ x_2, y_2 \end{matrix}$$

1. Use to find the distance between 2 points on the coordinate plane.

Formula:

Example: Find the distance between T(5, 2) and R(-4, -1) to the nearest tenth.

$$\begin{matrix} 90 & & 3\sqrt{10} \\ / & & \\ 9 & 10 & \\ / & / & \\ 3 & 3 & 5 & 2 \end{matrix}$$

2. The average or mean of the coordinates of the endpoints.

Formula:

Example: QS has endpoints Q(3, 5) and S(7, -9). Find the coordinates of its midpoint M.

Example: The midpoint of AB is M(3, 4). One endpoint is A(-3, -2). Find the coordinate of the other endpoint B.

$$(3, 4) = \left(\frac{-3 + x_2}{2}, \frac{-2 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

$$\begin{matrix} 3 = \frac{-3 + x_2}{2} & & 4 = \frac{-2 + y_2}{2} \\ 6 = -3 + x_2 & & 8 = -2 + y_2 \\ 9 = x_2 & & 10 = y_2 \end{matrix}$$