Algebra 2 Unit: Trigonometric Functions Section: Graphing Trigonometric Functions

Example: Graphing Transformations of Trigonometric Functions

Problem

Graph the function y is equal to two cosine of theta plus one.

Solution

First graph the function y is equal to cosine of theta.

Next graph two cosine of theta. Two is the amplitude of the function. This graph crosses the x-axis in the same places, but is twice as tall as the first graph. It goes through the points (0, 2), (90, 0), (180, -2), (270, 0) and (360, 2). This cycle repeats both to the left and the right.

Finally, graph the transformed function y is equal to two cosine of theta plus one. The function has a vertical shift of one unit up. The entire curve is shifted up one unit, going through the points (0, 3), (90, 1), (180, -1), (270, 1) and (360, 3). This cycle repeats both to the left and the right.