

Course: Geometry
Unit: Lines and the Coordinate Plane
Section: The Coordinate Plane

Example: Coordinates of Points on the Coordinate Plane

Problem:

Coordinates of Points on the Coordinate Plane

Solution:

On this graph you see point A drawn in the first quadrant and point B drawn in the second quadrant.

To find the coordinates of a point, we always start at the origin, move either to the right or left and then move either up or down.

To find the coordinates of point A, start at the origin and move to the right three units. The x-coordinate of A is three.

To find the y-coordinate, we now move up two units to point A. The y-coordinate of A is two.

We read the point as "Three, two".

Now let's find the coordinates of point B. Notice that to get to point B, we will have to move to the left and down. In order to indicate this, we will use negative numbers.

Start at the origin and move to the left four units. The x-coordinate of point B is negative four.

To find the y-coordinate of point B, we now move down three units. The y-coordinate of B is negative three.

We read the point as "negative four, negative three".