



Coordinate System and Axes

Today's Standard

5.G.A1 - Use a pair of perpendicular number lines, called axes, to define a coordinate system, with the intersection of the lines (the origin) arranged to coincide with the 0 on each line and a given point in the plane located by using an ordered pair of numbers, called its coordinates. Understand that the first number indicates how far to travel from the origin in the direction of one axis, and the second number indicates how far to travel in the direction of the second axis, with the convention that the names of the two axes and the coordinates correspond (e.g., x-axis and x-coordinate, y-axis and y-coordinate).

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Mapping locations on a city grid; Plotting points on a graph in science experiments; Navigating using GPS coordinates; Designing video game levels with coordinate systems; Creating artwork using graph paper and coordinates

Today I Learned

Today, we learned about the coordinate system. We use two number lines, called axes, to find places on a grid. We use pairs of numbers to show where a point is.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think the order of the numbers doesn't matter, but it does! The first number tells us how far to go sideways, and the second number tells us how far to go up or down. Some kids also think both numbers tell us how far to go sideways, which is not right.

Quiz Me

- What is a coordinate system?
- What do we use to find points on a grid?
- What does the first number in a pair tell us?
- What does the second number in a pair tell us?
- Why is the order of the numbers important?

Help Me

The coordinate system helps us find places on a map or grid. We use two number lines that cross each other. One goes sideways (x-axis) and one goes up and down (y-axis). We use pairs of numbers to show where a point is. For example, (3, 2) means go 3 steps sideways and 2 steps up.