

GENERAL MATHEMATICS 11

Name of Learner: _____

Grade Level: _____

Section: _____

Date: _____

LEARNING ACTIVITY SHEET

DETERMINING THE INTERCEPTS, ZEROES AND ASYMPTOTES OF RATIONAL FUNCTIONS

Background Information for Learners

Rational Functions can be written in the form $f(x) = N(x)/D(x)$ where $N(x)$ and $D(x)$ are polynomials and $D(x)$ is not the zero polynomial.

The intercepts are the x- or y- coordinates of the points at which the graph crosses the x-axis or y-axis respectively. The zeros of the rational function f are the values of the independent variable that make the numerator zero but are not restrictions of the rational function f . Moreover, the asymptote is a line (or a curve) that the graph of a function gets close to but does not touch either x- or y-axis.

Remember:

1. To find the x-intercept, substitute 0 for y and solve for x .
To find the y-intercept, substitute 0 for x and solve for y .
2. To find the zeros of rational functions
 - Factor the numerator and the denominator of the rational function f if possible
 - Identify the restrictions of the rational function f . (The restrictions are the values of the independent variable that make the denominator equal to zero.)
 - Identify the values of the independent variable that make the numerator equal to zero.
 - The zeros of the rational function f are the values of the independent variable that make the numerator zero but are not restrictions of the rational function f .
3. On vertical asymptotes they are the restrictions on the x-values of a reduced rational function by equating the denominator to 0 and solve for x .

On horizontal Asymptotes

- If $n < m$, the graph of f has the line $y = 0$
- If $n = m$, the graph of f has the line $y = a_n/b_m$ where a_n and b_m are the leading coefficients of the numerator and denominator, respectively
- If $n > m$, the graph has no horizontal asymptote.

Learning Competency

Determines the (a) intercepts; (b) zeroes (c) asymptotes of rational functions (Quarter 1, Week 2, M11GM-1c-1)

Illustrative Examples:

A. Which of the following are rational functions?

1. $f(x) = (x + 2)/(1 + x)$
2. $f(x) = (x^2 + 14x - 15)/(x + 7)$
3. $g(x) = (x^2 + \sqrt{x})/(2x^2 - 1)$
4. $g(x) = 5 + x/x^2 + \sqrt[3]{x} + 1$

Solution:

1. Rational Function: Both numerator and denominator are polynomials
2. Rational Function: Both numerator and denominator are polynomials
3. Not a Rational Function: Numerator is not a polynomial
4. Not a Rational Function: Denominator is not a polynomial

B. Find the **x -and y intercepts, zeros** and the **asymptotes** of

1. $f(x) = (x + 6)/(x - 3)$

Solution:

For x intercept

$$f(x) = (x + 6)/(x - 3)$$

$$0 = (x + 6)/(x - 3)$$

$$0 = (x + 6)$$

$$x = -6$$

Substitute 0 for y or f(x)

Multiply both sides by x-3

Simplify

Therefore, the x-intercept is -6 or (-6,0)

For y intercept

$$f(x) = (x + 6)/(x - 3)$$

$$f(0) = (0 + 6)/(0 - 3)$$

$$= 6/-3$$

$$= -2$$

Substitute 0 for x

Simplify

Therefore, The y intercept is -2 or (0,-2)

For the zeros

$$f(x) = (x + 6)/(x - 3)$$

$$x - 3 = 0$$

$$x = 3$$

Identify restrictions by making the denominator equal to 0

$$x + 6 = 0$$

$$x = -6$$

identify the values of x that make the numerator equal to 0

Since -6 make the numerator zero but not restrictions of the rational function f, therefore **-6 is the zero of the function.**

Vertical asymptote

$$x - 3 = 0$$

$$x=3$$

Horizontal asymptote

$$y= 6/-3$$

$$y = -2$$

2. $f(x)= (x^2 - 9)/(x^2 - x - 6)$

For x intercept

$$f(x)= (x^2 - 9)/(x^2 - x - 6)$$

$$f(x)= (x - 3)(x + 3)/(x - 3)/(x + 2)$$

$$f(x)= (x + 3)/(x + 2)$$

$$f(0)= (x + 3)/(x + 2)$$

$$0=(x + 3)$$

$$x=-3$$

Factor

Cancel $(x - 3)$

Substitute 0 for y or f(x)

Multiply both sides by $(x + 2)$

Simplify

Therefore, the x intercept is -3

For y intercept

$$f(x)= (x^2 - 9)/(x^2 - x - 6)$$

$$f(0)= (0^2 - 9)/(0^2 - 0 - 6)$$

$$= -9/-6$$

$$=3/2$$

Substitute 0 for x

Simplify

Therefore, the y intercept is 3/2

For the zeros

$$f(x)= (x^2 - 9)/(x^2 - x - 6)$$

$$f(x)= (x - 3)(x + 3)/(x - 3)/(x + 2)$$

$$f(x)= (x - 3)(x + 3)/(x - 3)/(x + 2)$$

$$x = 3 \text{ and } x = -2$$

$$x = 3 \text{ and } x = -3$$

Factor the numerator and denominator of f

Cancel $(x - 3)$

Identify restrictions by making the denominator equal to 0

identify the values of x that make the numerator equal to 0

Since -3 make the numerator zero but not restrictions of the rational function f, **therefore -3 is the zero of the function**

Vertical Asymptote

$$x = 3 \text{ and } x = -2$$

Horizontal asymptote: Y=1

Exercise 1: Know Me Better

Directions: Identify which of the following are rational functions.

5. $f(x) = (4 + x)/(x + 3)$
6. $f(x) = (x^2 - 4x - 5)/(x - 1)$
7. $g(x) = (\sqrt{x} + 3)/(x^2 - 1)$
8. $i(x) = 5 + x - 4x^2/x^2 + \sqrt[3]{2x} + 1$

Exercise 2. Place Me on the Table

Directions: Find (a) the **zeros**; (b) the **x-and y-intercepts** and (c) the **asymptotes** of the following rational functions.

Rational Function	Zeros	x-and Intercepts	y- Asymptotes
1. $f(x) = (x - 5)/(x + 2)$			
2. $f(x) = (x - 5)/(x^2 - 25)$			
3. $f(x) = (x^2 - 5x + 4)/(x^2 - 4x + 4)$			

Exercise 3: How Well Did I understand?

Create a rational function with a vertical asymptote of $x = -5$ and a hole at $x = 4$

Reflection: I learned in this topic that rational function is _____

References:

Oronce, Orlando. RBS General Mathematics First Edition
Learner's Material for Mathematics Grade 9

Answer key

Activity 1: Know Me Better

1. Rational Function: Both the numerator and denominator are polynomials.
2. Rational Function: Both the numerator and denominator are polynomials.
3. Not a Rational Function: Numerator is not a polynomial
4. Rational Function: Denominator is not polynomial.

Activity 2: Place Me On the Table

	Zeros	x-and y-Intercepts	Asymptotes
1	X=5	x-intercept: (5,0) y-intercept: (0,-5/2)	Vertical Asymptote: x=-2 Horizontal Asymptote: y=1
2	The function f has no zero	x-intercept: (5, 0) y-intercept: (0, 1/5)	Vertical Asymptote: x=-5 Horizontal Asymptote: y=0
3	X=4 and x=1	x-intercept: (4,0) and (1,0) y-intercept: (0,1)	Vertical Asymptote: x=2 Horizontal Asymptote: y=1

Activity 3: How Well Did I understand?

There are many possible answers (Hint: Be sure that one factor in the numerator is x-4 and the denominator is (x+5) and (x-4)

Illustrations:

1. $f(x)=(x-4)(x+1)/(x+5)(x-4)$ or $f(x)=\frac{x^2-3x-4}{x^2+x-20}$
2. $f(x)=(x-4)(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})/(x+5)(x-4)$ or $f(x)=\frac{x^2 \underline{\hspace{2cm}}}{x^2+x-20}$
3. $f(x)=(x-4)(\underline{\hspace{2cm}})/(x+5)(x-4)$ or $f(x)=\frac{x^2 \underline{\hspace{2cm}}}{x^2+x-20}$