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Writing Quadratic Equations in Standard Form from a Graph

Let's discover how can we use a graph to write the equation of a quadratic function.

Consider the following graph.


What information can you gather by examining the graph?
vertex, Axis of Symm, x-int,y-int

To write the equation in standard form, $y=a x^{2}+b x+c$, we need to find the $a, b$, and $c$ terms.

Identify the $y$-intercept.
$\begin{aligned} & \text { This is the } c \text { term of } \\ & \text { standard form. }\end{aligned} \quad(0,8) \quad c=8$

Identify the solutions. Write the solutions as linear
factors. $(x-1 \cap t)$

$$
a(x+4)(x-2)
$$

$$
x=-4,2
$$

Write the quadratic equation using the linear factors. Don't forget the $a$ term.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& a\left(x^{2}-2 x+4 x-8\right) \\
& a\left(x^{2}+2 x-8\right)
\end{aligned}
$$




Set the $c$ term in the equation above equal to the value of $c$ and solve for $a$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
-8 a & =c \\
-8 a & =8 \\
a & =-1
\end{aligned}
$$

Substitute $a$ in the previous step to write the quadratic equation represented by the graph.
$(-1)\left(x^{2}\right)+2(-1)(x)-8(-1)$
$y=-x^{2}-2 x+8$

Try It!

1. Write the equation for the graph below.


The following table shows a different way to find the equation of the quadratic. $\quad(x, y)$

$$
y=a x^{2}+b x+c
$$

Identify two ordered pairs from the graph of the quadratic.

Identify the $y$-intercept. This is the $c$ term of standard form.

Substitute the ordered pairs and the c term into the standard form of a quadratic equation to write a system of linear equations.

$$
(3,8),(2,0)
$$

$$
(0,2) \quad c=2
$$

$$
8=a(3)^{2}+b(3)+2
$$

$$
0=a(2)^{2}+b(2)+2
$$

$$
8=9 a+3 b+2
$$

$$
0=4 a+2 b+2
$$

$$
6=9 a+3 b
$$

$$
-2=4 a+2 b
$$

$$
12=18 a+6 b
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& -14=2 b \quad b=-7
\end{aligned} \quad(-2=4 a+2 b)-3 \quad \frac{x 6=-12 a-6 b}{18=6 a \quad a=3}
$$

Substitute $a, b$, and $c$ into the standard form of a quadratic equation to write the quadratic equation represented by the graph.

$$
3 x^{2}-7 x+2=y
$$

BEAT THE TEST!

1. A quadratic function $f(x)$ is shown below.
 function shown above.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Select symbols and values to create the equation of the } \\
& f(x)=-\alpha x^{2}+\quad / 4 x+0 \\
& -2(2=a+b) \quad 2=a(2)^{2}+b(2) \\
& 4=2=4 a+2 b \\
& -4=-2 a-2 b \\
& 0=4 a+2 b \\
& -4=2 a \quad a=-2 \\
& -2 \square \\
& 2=-2+b \\
& 4=b
\end{aligned}
$$

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