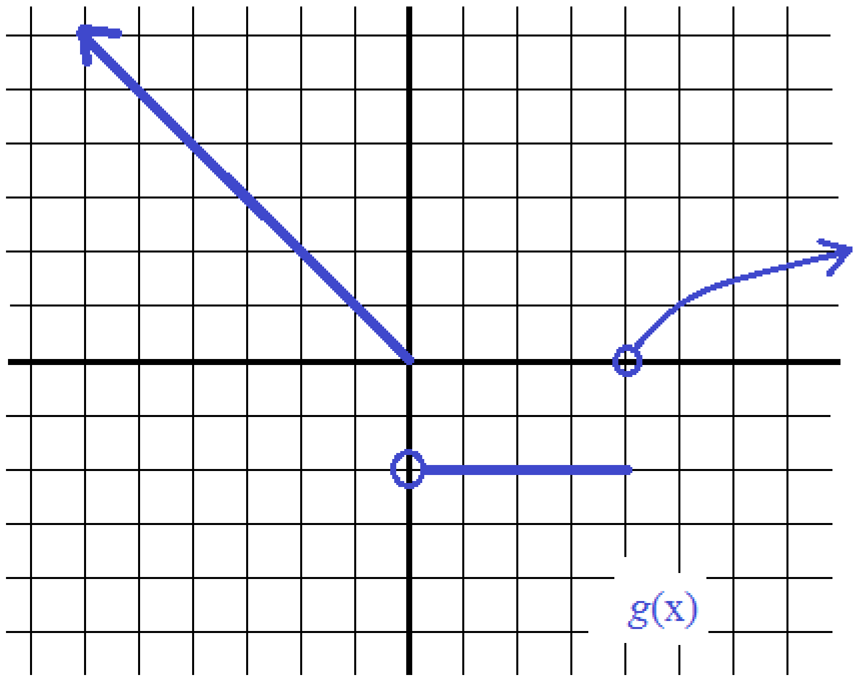
# Piecewise Functions and $f$(x) Notation




Includes notes, examples, graphs, strategies, and practice questions (with solutions)

Functional Notation and Piecewise Functions

## I. Functional Notation

What is it? A way to express a function.

Examples: $f(x) = 3x + 8$ | $g(x) = 6x^2 - 3x + 7$ | $h(t) = 3x + 4t - 5$

$f$ identifies the function | $g$ identifies the function | $h$ identifies the function

x (inside the parentheses) is the "argument" | x (inside the parentheses) is the "argument" | t (inside the parentheses) is the "argument"

$f(2) = 3(2) + 8 = 14$

(substitute the x for 2)

$f(a) = 3(a) + 8 =$

$3a + 8$

$g(4) = 6(4)^2 - 3(4) + 7$

(substitute each x with a 4)

$= 96 - 12 + 7 = 91$

$g(-1) = 6(-1)^2 + 3(-1) + 7$

$= 6 \cdot 1 + (-3) + 7 = 10$

(replaced each x with -1 )

$h(3) = 3x + 4(3) - 5$

(substitute the t with a 3)

$= 3x + 7$

$h(x + 5) = 3x + 4(x + 5) - 5$

$= 3x + 4x + 20 - 5 = 7x + 15$

(replaced the t with (x + 5) )

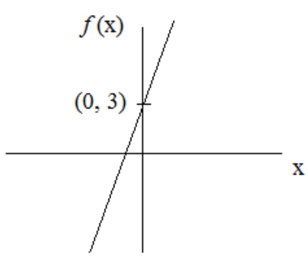
## II. $f(x)$ vs. y

What is the difference between $f(x) = 4x + 3$ and $y = 4x + 3$ ?

The notation is different; everything else is the same... Every input x will have the same output in either expression.

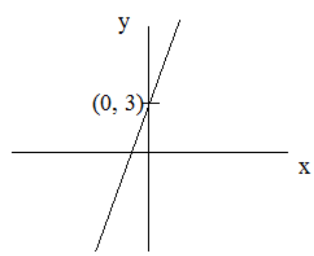
$f(0) = 3$

$f(3) = 15$




$y = 4(0) + 3 = 3$

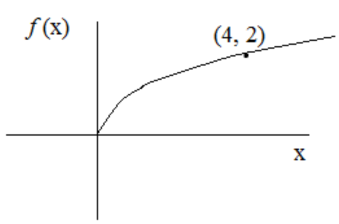
$y = 4(3) + 3 = 15$




What is the difference between $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ and $y = \sqrt{x}$ ?

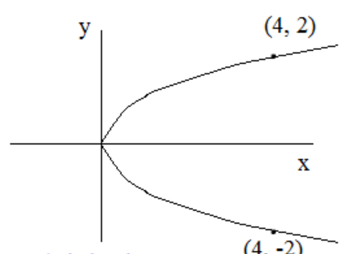
In this case, there is a subtle difference: $f(x)$ is a function but, y could be a relation (or function).

$f(4) = 2$




(function: only one output for each input)

$y = \sqrt{4} = \pm 2$




(relation between y and x)

III. Piecewise Function

What is it? A function that uses different calculations in different parts of its domain. (the formula will depend on the input!)

> "Piecewise defined functions" might be called *split functions*

Examples:

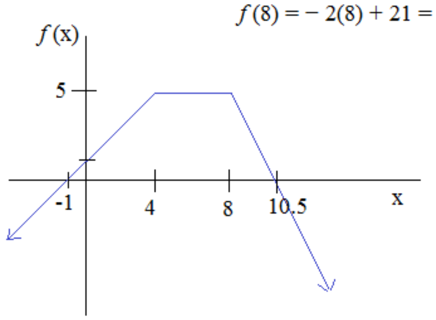
(formula) (domain)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 1 & x \le 4 \\ 5 & 4 < x < 8 \\ -2x + 21 & 8 \le x \end{cases}$$

$f(-2) = (-2) + 1 = -1$

$f(4) = 5$

$f(8) = -2(8) + 21 = 5$




Note: this is a *continuous* function

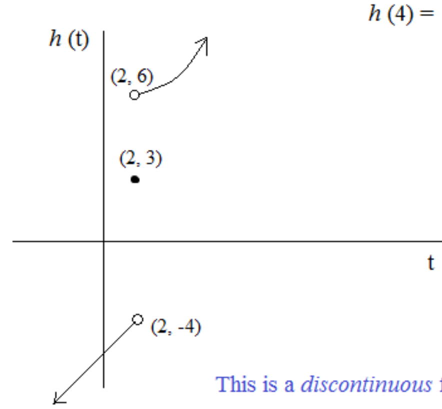
(formula) (domain)

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} t - 6 & t < 2 \\ 3 & t = 2 \\ t^2 + 2 & t > 2 \end{cases}$$

$h(0) = -6$

$h(2) = 3$

$h(4) = (4)^2 + 2 = 18$




This is a *discontinuous* function

(although, it is a continuous piecewise function, because each domain piece has a continuous function)

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Example: Graph

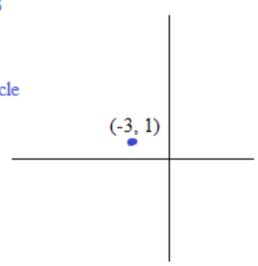
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 4 & x \le -3 \\ 3 & -3 < x \le 4 \\ x^2 & x > 4 \end{cases}$$

For $x \le -3$

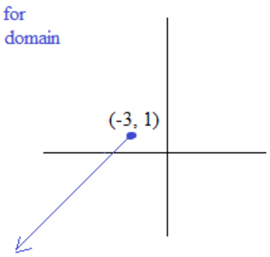
Go to -3

$f(-3) = 1$

Closed circle




Extend $x + 4$ for the rest of the domain

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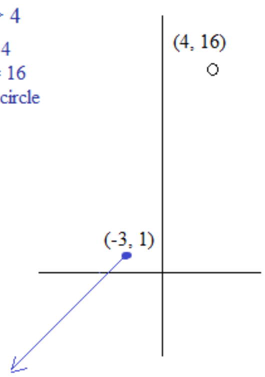
For $x > 4$

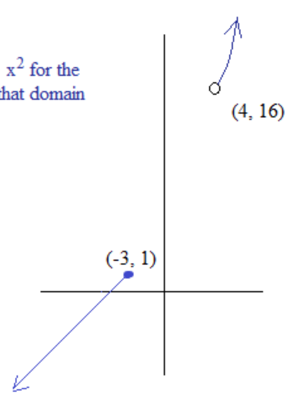
Go to 4

$f(4) = 16$

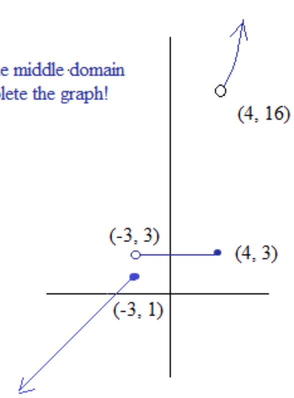
Open circle




Extend $x^2$ for the rest of that domain




Insert the middle domain to complete the graph!



## How to graph a piecewise function



Here are 2 approaches to graphing a piecewise function:

### Method 1: "Endpoint and Extend"

This is more effective for linear pieces.

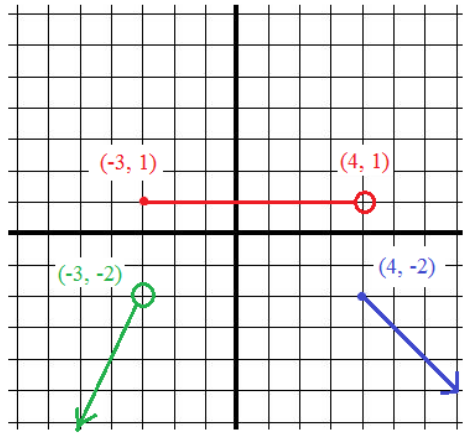
*Example:*

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 4 & \text{if } x < -3 \\ 1 & \text{if } -3 \leq x < 4 \\ -x + 2 & \text{if } x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

Start at x = -3:
$f(-3) = 2(-3) + 4 = -2$
since x < -3, it's an open circle
2x + 4 is a line with slope 2, so extend a line to the left...

Start at x = -3:
$f(-3) = 1$
since $x \geq -3$, it's a closed circle
"y = 1" is a horizontal line that extends to x = 4 (open circle)

Start at x = 4:
$f(4) = -(4) + 2 = -2$
since $x \geq 4$, it's a closed circle
-x +2 is a line with slope -1, so extend a line to the right




"Endpoint and Extend"

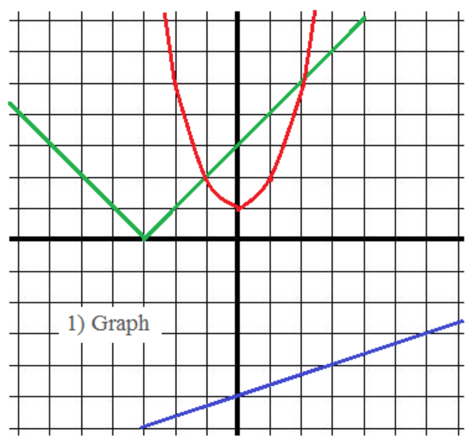
For each domain piece:
1) Find endpoint
2) Open/Close circle
3) Extend

### Method 2: "Graph and Cut"

*Example:*

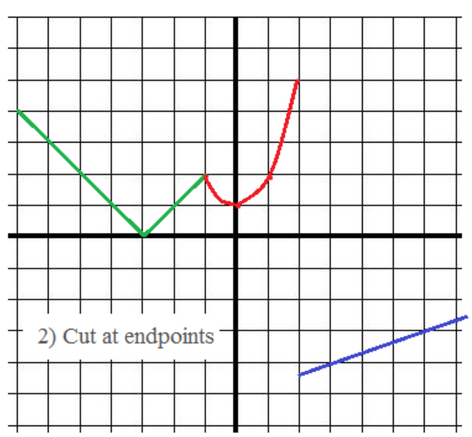
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} |x + 3| & \text{if } x < -1 \\ x^2 + 1 & \text{if } -1 \leq x < 2 \\ \frac{1}{3}x - 5 & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

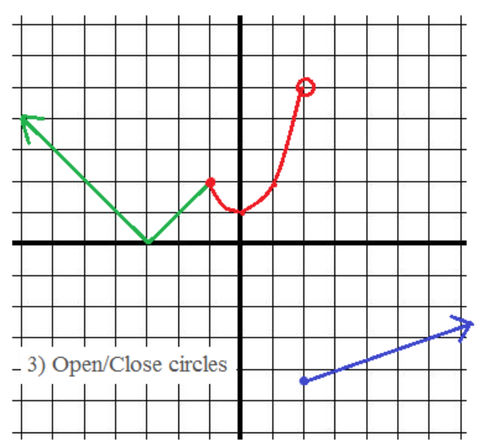
absolute value function $|x + 3|$
parabola $x^2 + 1$
line $\frac{1}{3}x - 5$




"Graph and Cut"

For each domain piece:
1) Graph the function
2) Cut at the endpoints of the domain
3) Open/Close circle



*Example:* Find the value(s) of x, such that $f(x) = 2$.
Then, graph to confirm your answer.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x^2 - 6 & \text{if } x < 1 \\ 2 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ -8 + x & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

obviously, $f(1) = 2$

then, for the 3rd equation: $-8 + x$...

$f(10) = 2$

and, for the 1st equation: $2x^2 - 6 = 2$

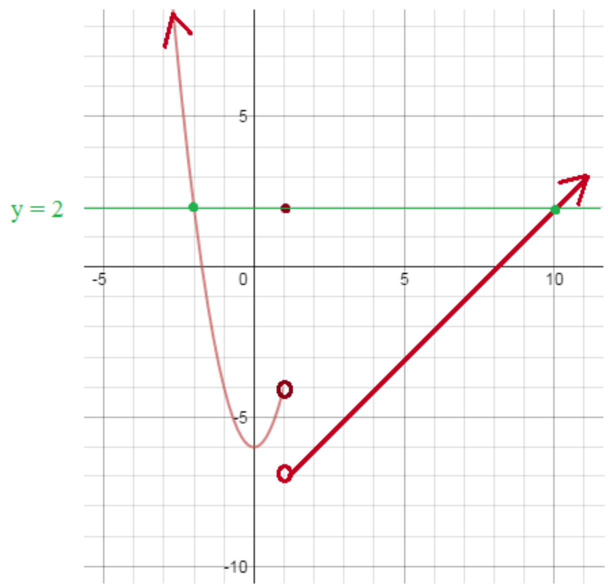
$2x^2 = 8$

$x = -2$ or $2$...

$f(-2) = 2$

Since this equation only applies if $x < 1$, we only consider $-2$

$x = -2, 1, 10$

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*Example:* If g(x) is continuous, what are m and d?
Graph this continuous piecewise function to verify.

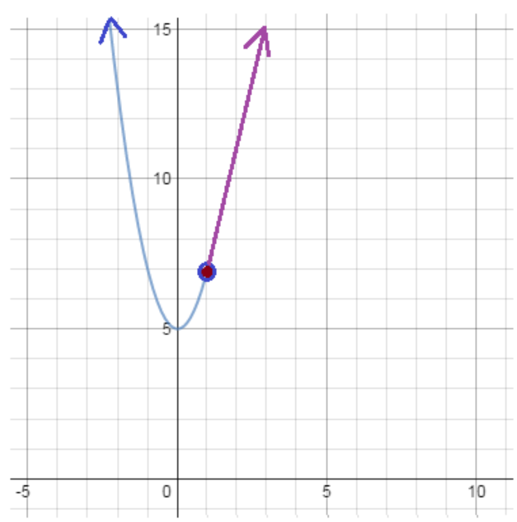
$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 2x^2 + 5 & \text{if } x < 1 \\ m & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 4x + d & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

for $x < 1$, the equation $2x^2 + 5$ ends at $(1, 7)$

therefore, at $x = 1$, m must be 7

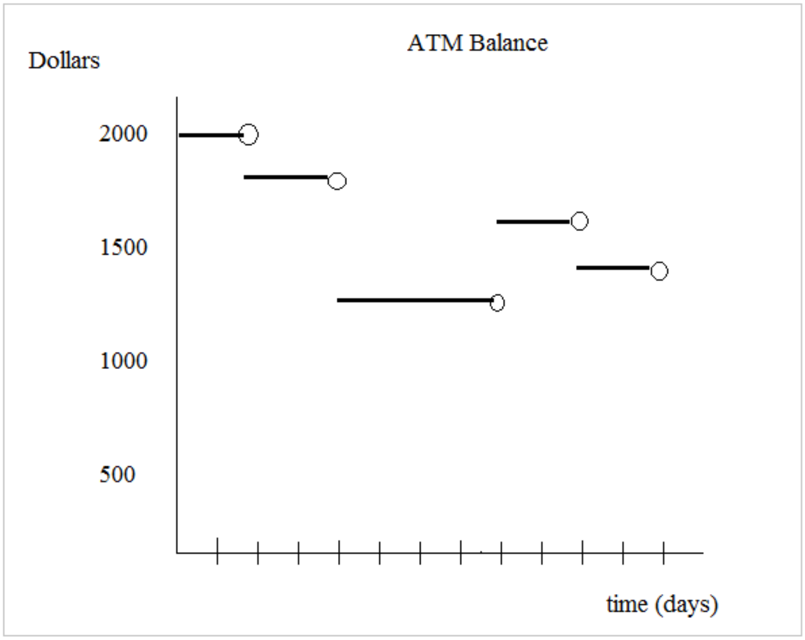
and, since m is 7, $4x + d = 7$.... d must be 3

(at $x = 1$, all 3 equations equal 7)



Models: Using Piecewise functions

*Example:*




What is the initial balance?

Initial balance occurs when t = 0...
Therefore, initial balance is 2000 dollars

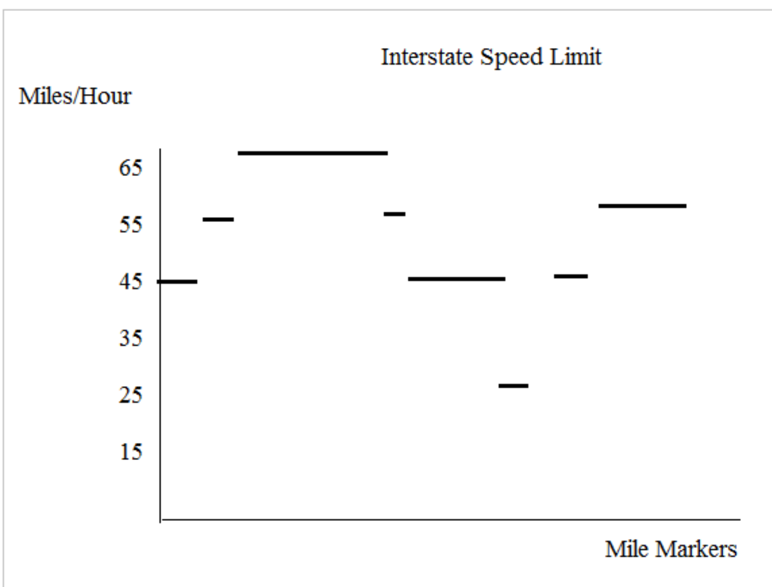
How many withdrawals were made?

If a withdrawal occurs, the amount will "gap lower"...
This occurs 3 times...

How many deposits?

If a deposit occurs, the amount will "gap higher"..
This occurs once..

*Example:*



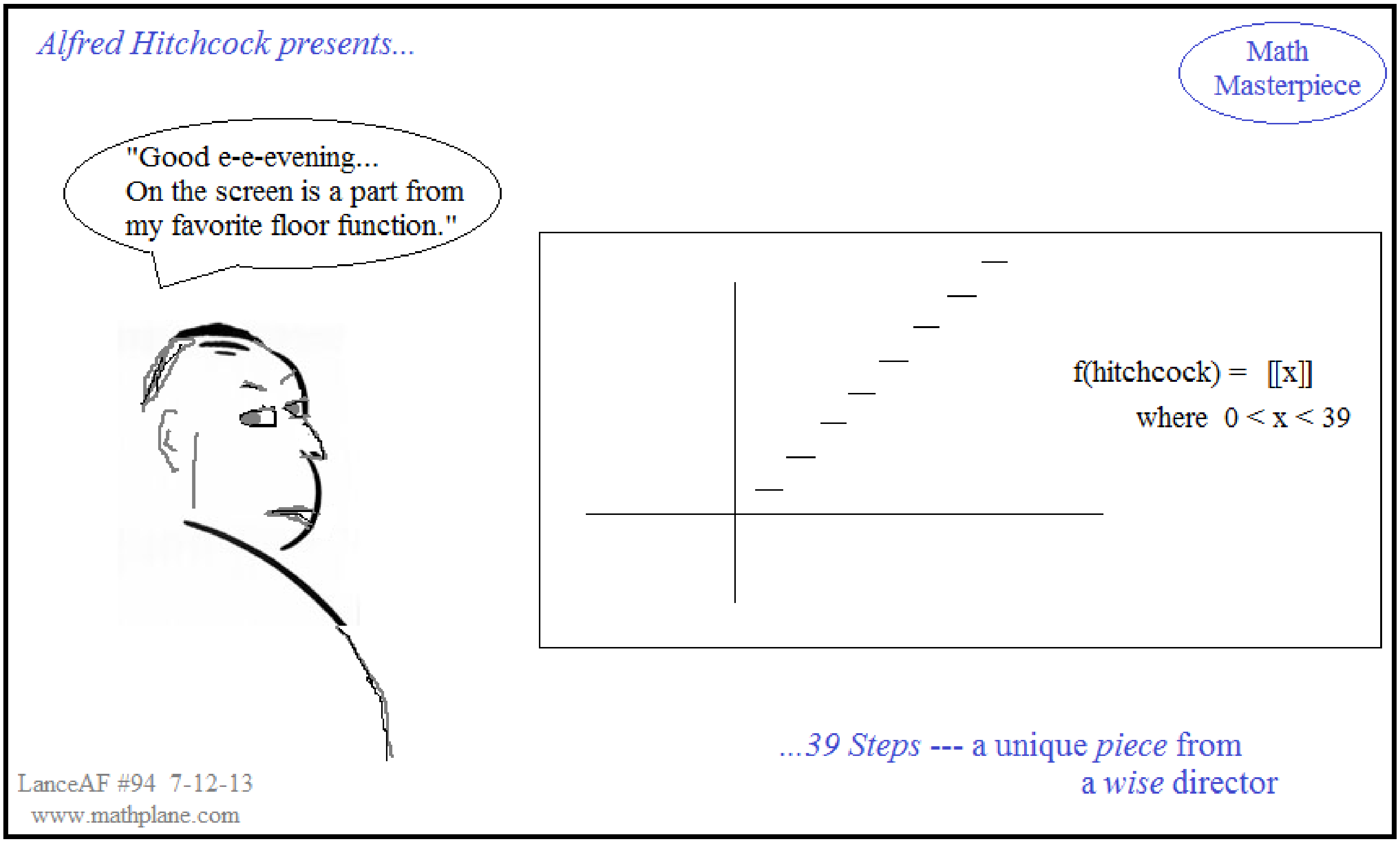

Explain a possible representation of the graph.

Each discontinuity represents a speed limit sign.

The 65 mph would occur on an interstate highway.

The drop to 25 mph would occur when the road passes through a town.

(Note: this is just a model. It's unlikely a car would instantaneously change speeds. Instead the graph would be continuous.)




Practice Exercises -→

Solving and Graphing $f$(x) Functions

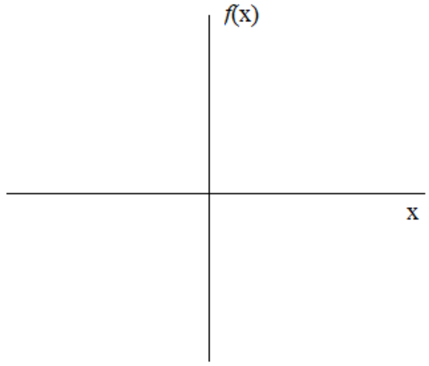
Find the solutions AND graph each function.

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

a) $f(2) =$

b) $f(0) =$

c) $f(-6) =$

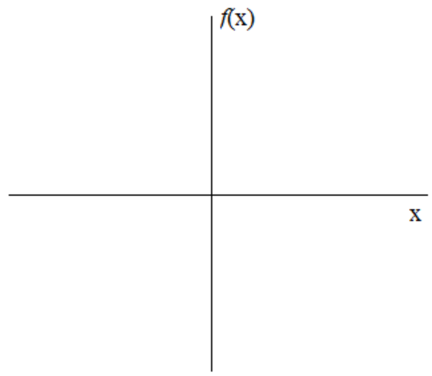



2) $f(x) = |x - 4| + 1$

a) $f(5) =$

b) $f(-5) =$

c) $f(2) =$

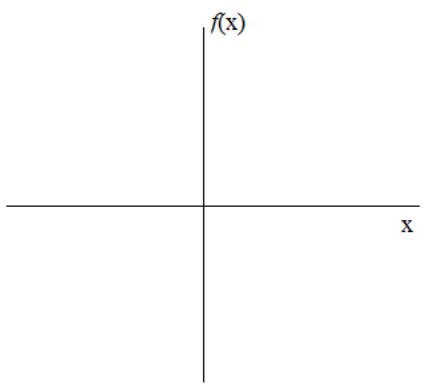



3) $f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 3 & \text{if } x < 4 \\ x - 3 & \text{if } x \geq 4 \end{cases}$

a) $f(0) =$

b) $f(7) =$

c) $f(4) =$

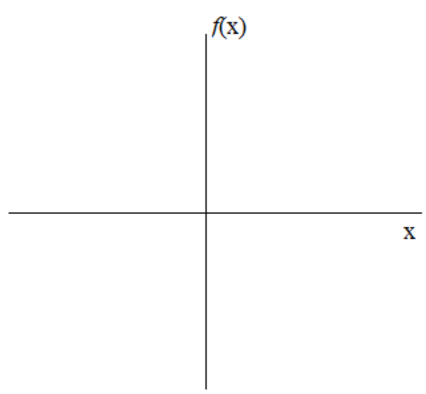



4) $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x - 7 & \text{if } x < -7 \\ 3 & \text{if } -7 \leq x < 5 \\ x^2 - 12 & \text{if } x \geq 5 \end{cases}$

a) $f(-8) =$

b) $f(0) =$

c) $f(7) =$



Piecewise Functions Quiz

I. Function notation - answer the following:

a)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+2, & \text{if } x<3 \\ x+7, & \text{if } x\geq 3 \end{cases}$$

$f(-5) =$

$f(3) =$

$f(5) =$

b)

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 3x+2, & \text{if } x<-6 \\ 5, & \text{if } -6\leq x<10 \\ x^2, & \text{if } x\geq 10 \end{cases}$$

$g(0) =$

$g(-6) =$

$g(10) =$

c)

$$j(x) = \begin{cases} -10, & \text{if } x<0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x=0 \\ 10, & \text{if } x>0 \end{cases}$$

$j(-25) =$

$j(1/2) =$

$j(0) =$

d)

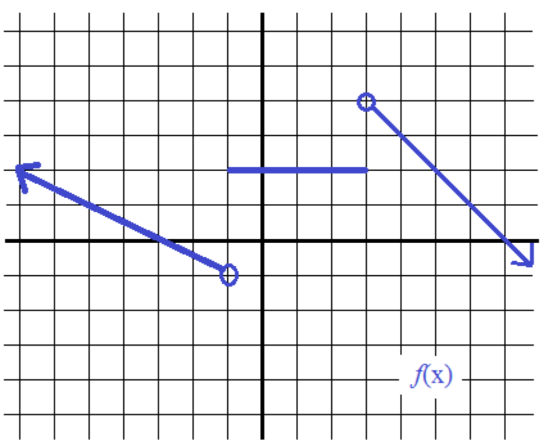
$$h(t) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{(-t)}, & \text{if } t<0 \\ 5, & \text{if } 0\leq t<5 \\ -2x, & \text{if } 5\leq t \end{cases}$$

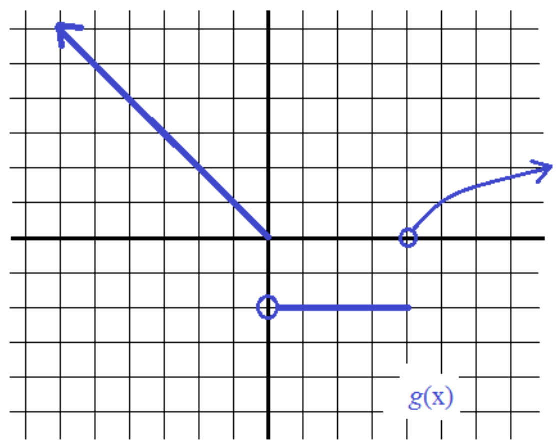
$h(-4) =$

$h(5) =$

$h(10) =$

II. Using a graph -- answer the following




$f(-5) =$

$f(-1) =$

$f(1) =$

$f(7) =$

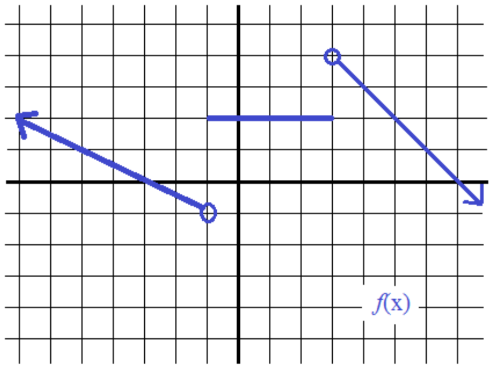
$g(-3) =$

$g(4) =$

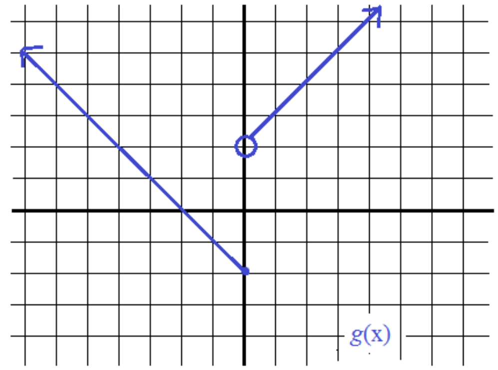
$g(5) =$

$g(-20) =$

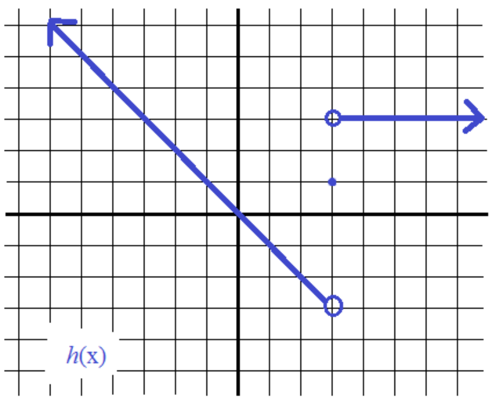
III. Identifying the Piecewise function -- write an expression to describe the graph



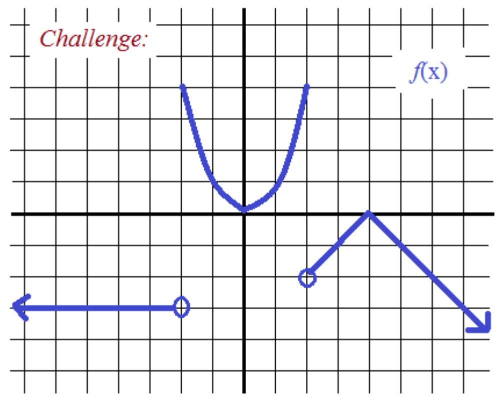

$f(x) = \{$




$g(x) = \{$



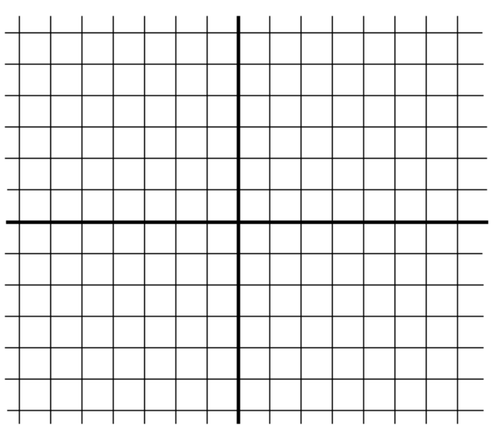

$h(x) = \{$



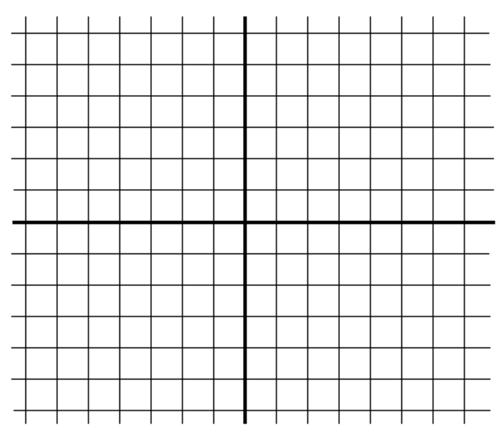

$f(x) = \{$

IV: Graphing Piecewise functions

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 4\ , & \text{if } x < 3 \\ -x + 3, & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$



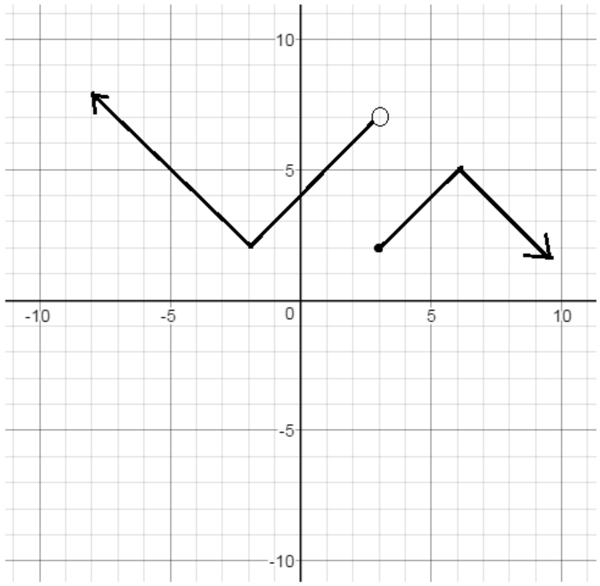
$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 2x\ , & \text{if } x < -3 \\ |x|\ , & \text{if } -3 \leq x < 3 \\ 5\ , & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$



Piecewise Absolute Value Functions

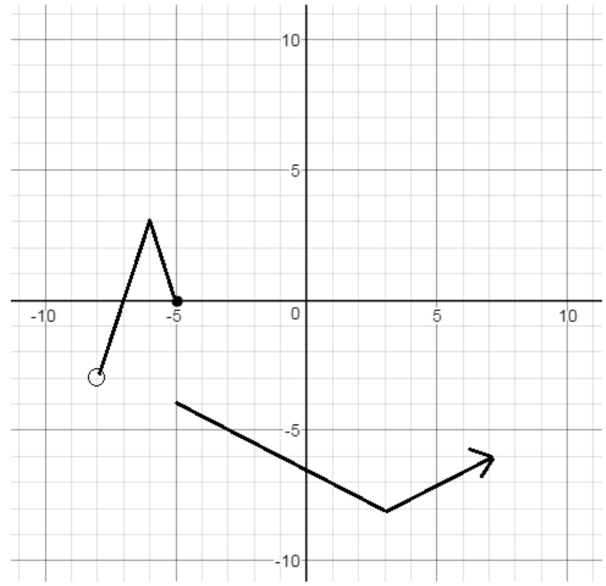
V. Use a minimal number of "pieces" to describe the graphs...

1)



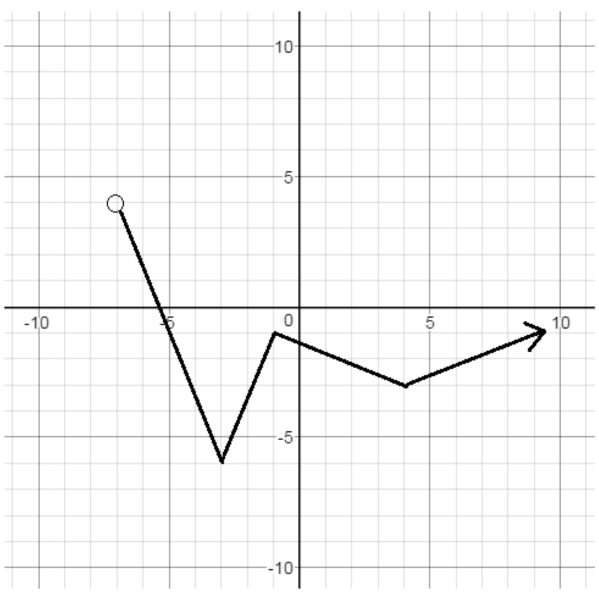

$f(x) = \{$

2)



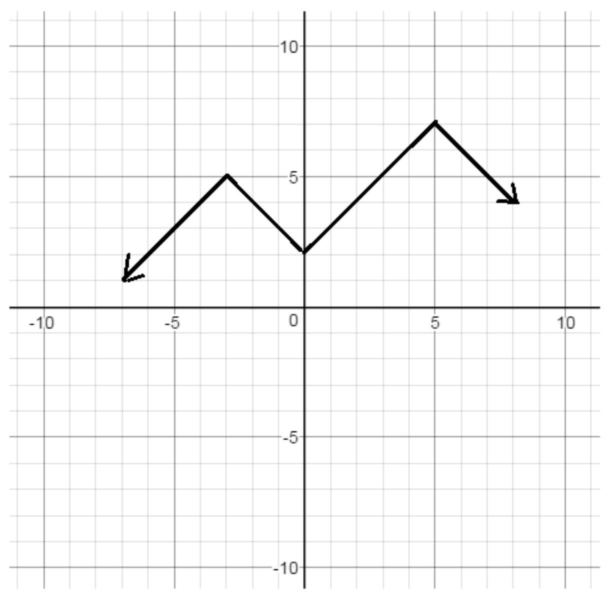

$g(x) = \{$

3)




$h(x) = \{$

4)




$p(x) = \{$

Piecewise Functions: Linear pieces

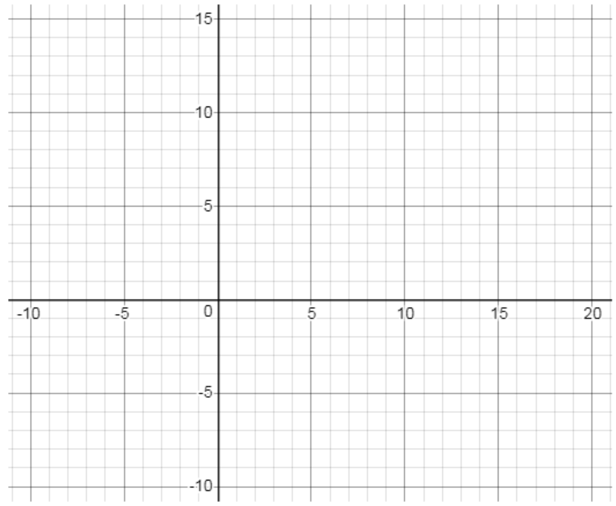
Graph the following piecewise functions. Then, identify the domain and range.

1)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3 & \text{if} \quad x < 2 \\ -1 & \text{if} \quad 2 \leq x < 6 \\ -x+10 & \text{of} \quad x \geq 6 \end{cases}$$

domain:

range:

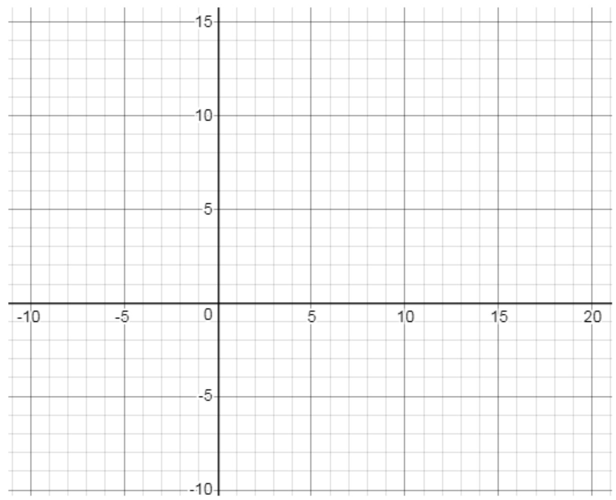



2)

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 3 - 4x & \text{if} \quad x < 0 \\ 5 & \text{if} \quad 3 \leq x \leq 7 \\ -x + 10 & \text{if} \quad x \geq 12 \end{cases}$$

domain:

range:

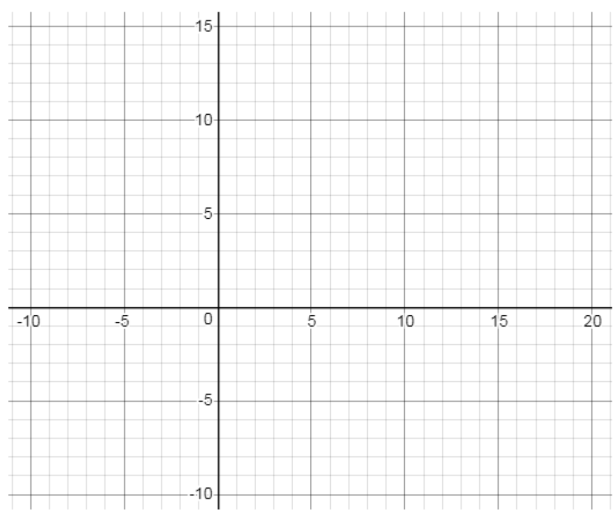



3)

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} 2t + 2 & \text{if} \quad 0 < t \leq 4 \\ t + 6 & \text{if} \quad 4 < t \leq 8 \\ 14 & \text{if} \quad t > 8 \end{cases}$$

domain:

range:



Piecewise Functions: Linear pieces

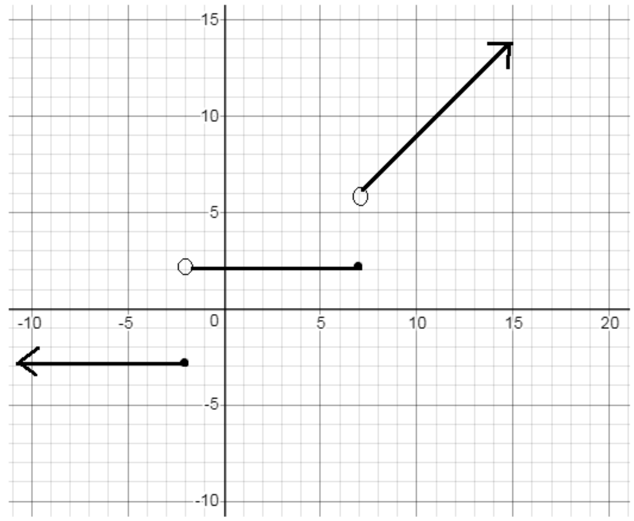
Describe the following piecewise functions. Determine the domain and range.

4)

$f(x) = \begin{cases} & \text{if} \\ & \text{if} \\ & \text{if} \end{cases}$

domain:

range:

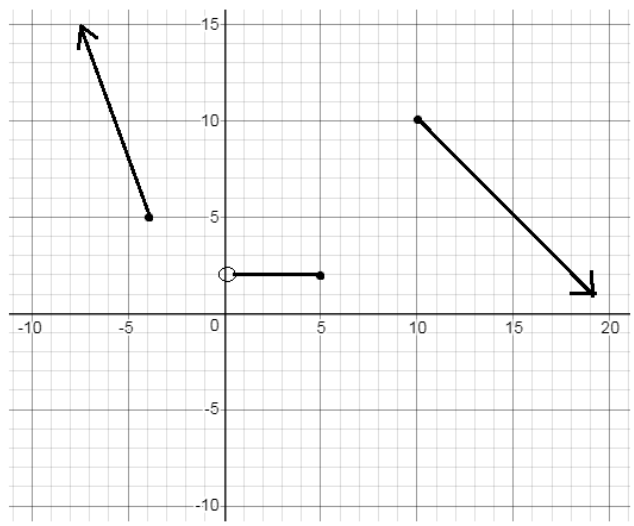



5)

$g(x) = \begin{cases} & \text{if} \\ & \text{if} \\ & \text{if} \end{cases}$

domain:

range:

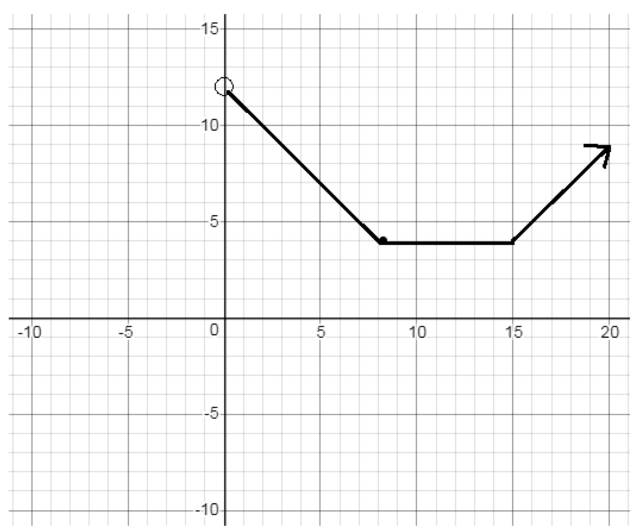



6)

$h(x) = \begin{cases} & \text{if} \\ & \text{if} \\ & \text{if} \end{cases}$

domain:

range:



Graph the following piecewise functions. Then, identify the domain and range.

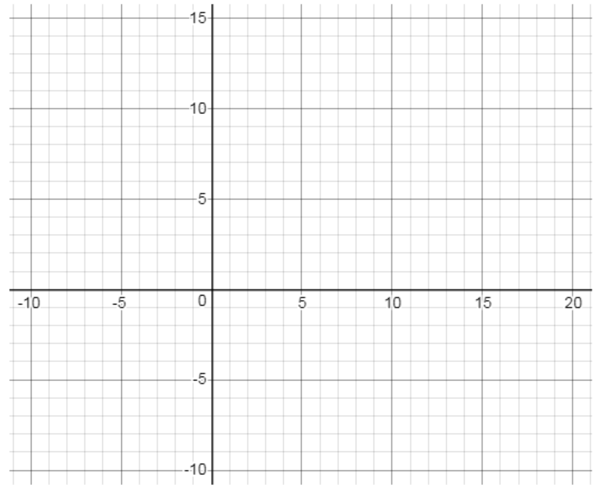
Piecewise Functions: mixed pieces

7)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 15 & \text{if } x \le -5 \\ -|x| + 2 & \text{if } -5 < x < 5 \\ \sqrt{x-5} + 3 & \text{if } x \ge 5 \end{cases}$$

domain:

range:

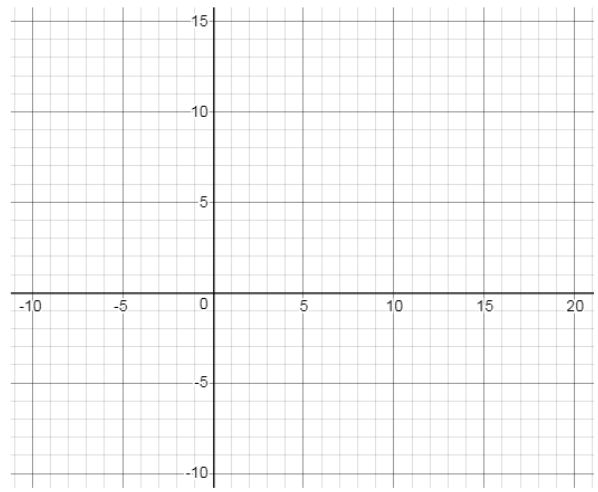



8)

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{-6-x} + 8 & \text{if } x < -6 \\ (x+3)^2 + 1 & \text{if } -6 \le x \le 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}x + 7 & \text{if } x > 4 \end{cases}$$

domain:

range:

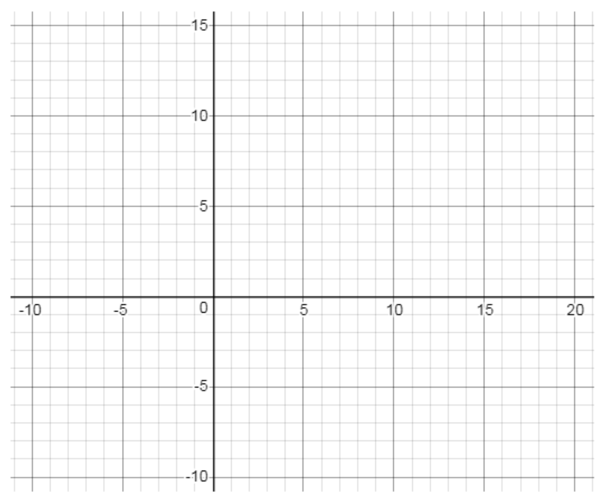



9)

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}(2^x) & \text{if } 1 \le x < 4 \\ 2|x - 10| - 4 & \text{if } x \ge 4 \end{cases}$$

domain:

range:



## VI. Piecewise Models (Word Problems) and Concepts

1) A discount book store charges \$4 per book..
If a customer buys more than 5, the price drops to \$3.50 per book...

Write a piecewise function to model the cost of books..
How much would 20 books cost?

2) A store sells t-shirts...

It charges \$10 per shirt for the first batch of 50...
Since the store has the screen design,
the next batch of 50 would cost \$9 per shirt...
And, all batches after that would cost \$8 per shirt....

Write a piecewise function describing the cost of shirts...
How much would 120 shirts cost?

3) A shop down the street sells hats...

It charges \$10 per hat.
If a customer purchases more than 30 hats, the owner offers
a \$1 discount per hat. (\$9 per hat)
If a customer buys more than 50 hats, the owner offers another
\$1 discount (\$8 per hat).

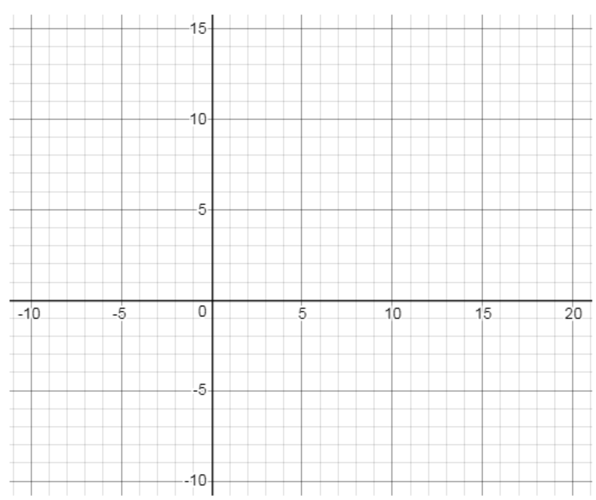
Write a piecewise function to describe the cost of hats.
The math club has a budget of \$300. How many hats could it buy?

4) Write and graph a piecewise function with the following characteristics.

Domain: all real numbers

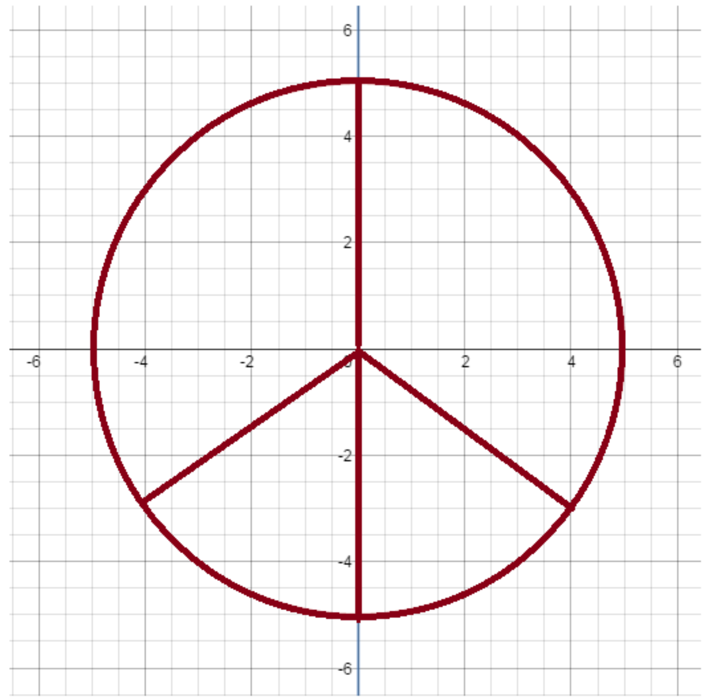
Range: { -4, 2, 5 }

$f(3) = 2$ and $f(-3) = 5$



Peace-wise Function

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{4}x & \text{if } -4 \leq x \leq 0 \\ \pm\sqrt{25 - x^2} & \text{if } -5 \leq x \leq 5 \\ -\frac{3}{4}x & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 4 \\ \text{all real numbers betweeen -5 and 5} & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$




This is a tremendous function... (even if it fails the vertical line test!)



SOLUTIONS -→

Solving and Graphing $f(x)$ Functions

SOLUTIONS

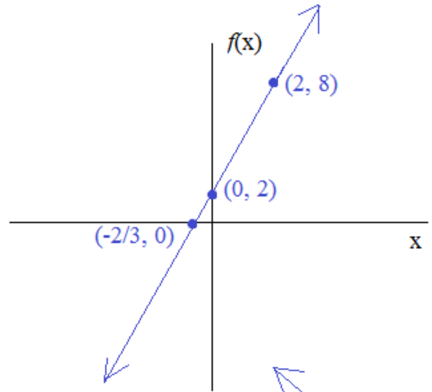
Find the solutions AND graph each function.

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

a) $f(2) = 3(2) + 2 = 8$

b) $f(0) = 3(0) + 2 = 2$

c) $f(-6) = 3(-6) + 2 = -16$




2) $f(x) = |x - 4| + 1$

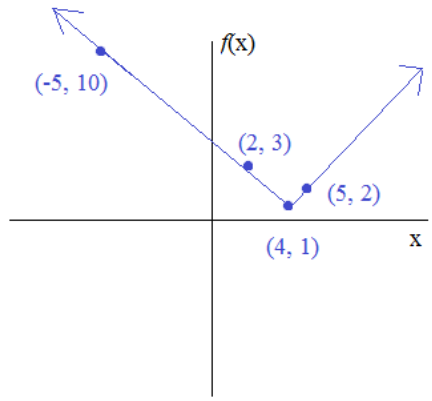
a) $f(5) = |(5) - 4| + 1 = 2$

b) $f(-5) = |(-5) - 4| + 1 = 10$

c) $f(2) = |(2) - 4| + 1 = 3$

vertex: (4, 1)

absolute value is "v shaped"

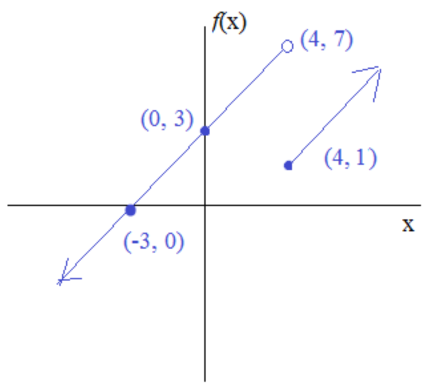



3) $f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 3 & \text{if } x < 4 \\ x - 3 & \text{if } x \geq 4 \end{cases}$

a) $f(0) = (0) + 3 = 3$ (1st piece)

b) $f(7) = (7) - 3 = 4$ (2nd piece)

c) $f(4) = (4) - 3 = 1$ (2nd piece)

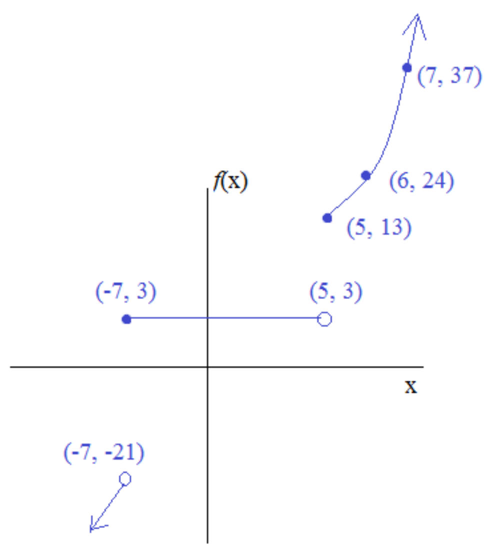



4) $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x - 7 & \text{if } x < -7 \\ 3 & \text{if } -7 \leq x < 5 \\ x^2 - 12 & \text{if } x \geq 5 \end{cases}$

a) $f(-8) = 2(-8) - 7 = -23$

b) $f(0) = 3$

c) $f(7) = 49 - 12 = 37$



Piecewise Functions Quiz

www.mathplane.com

SOLUTIONS

I. Function notation - answer the following:

a) $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+2, & \text{if } x < 3 \\ x+7, & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$

$f(-5) =$ $(-5) + 2 = -3$

$f(3) =$ $(3) + 7 = 10$

$f(5) =$ $(5) + 7 = 12$

b) $g(x) = \begin{cases} 3x+2, & \text{if } x < -6 \\ 5, & \text{if } -6 \leq x < 10 \\ x^2, & \text{if } x \geq 10 \end{cases}$

$g(0) =$ since 0 is between -6 and 10, the output is 5

$g(-6) =$ since -6 is $\geq$ -6, the output is 5

$g(10) =$ $(10)^2 = 100$

c) $j(x) = \begin{cases} -10, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 10, & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$

$j(-25) =$ -10

$j(1/2) =$ 10

$j(0) =$ 0

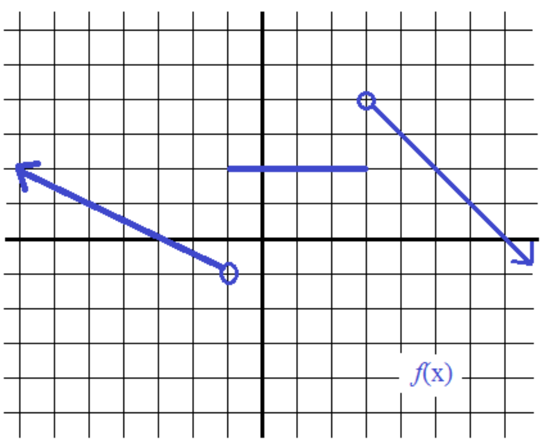
d) $h(t) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{(-t)}, & \text{if } t < 0 \\ 5, & \text{if } 0 \leq t < 5 \\ -2x, & \text{if } 5 \leq t \end{cases}$

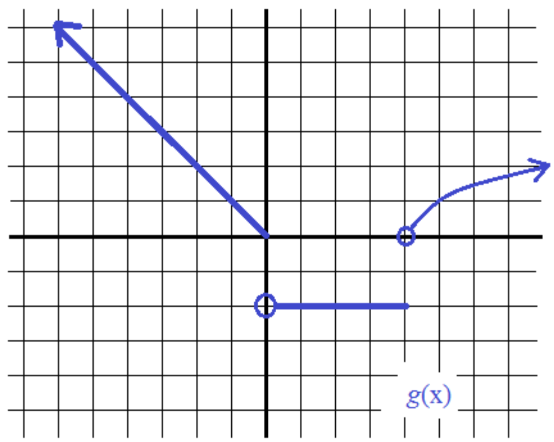
$h(-4) = \sqrt{(-(-4))} = 2$

$h(5) = -2(5) = -10$

$h(10) = -2(10) = -20$

II. Using a graph -- answer the following




$f(-5) =$ 1

$f(-1) =$ 2

$f(1) =$ 2

$f(7) =$ 0

$g(-3) =$ 3

$g(4) =$ -2

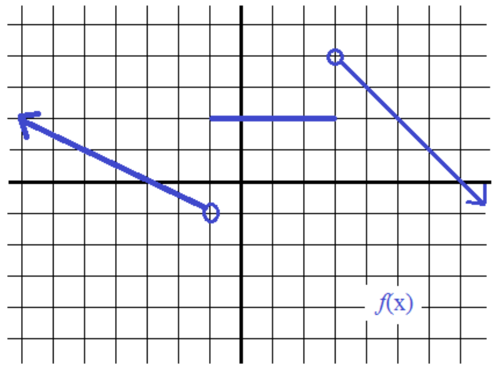
$g(5) =$ 1

$g(-20) =$ 20

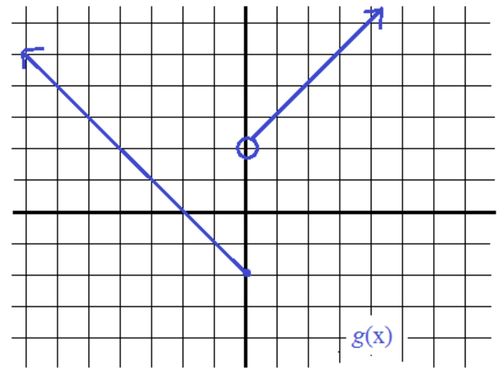
$g(x) = -x \quad \text{if } x \leq 0$

III. Identifying the Piecewise function -- write an expression to describe the graph

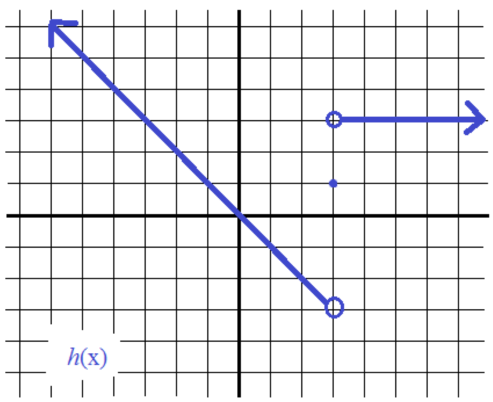
SOLUTIONS



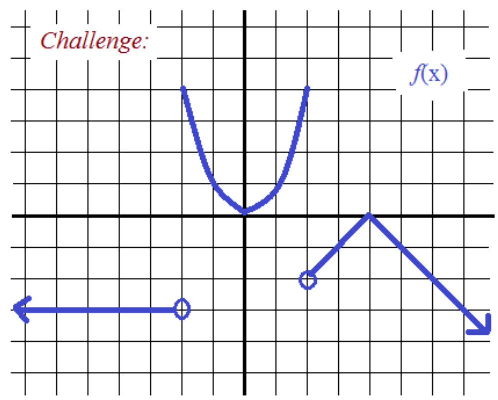

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1/2(x) - 3/2 & \text{if } x < -1 \\ 2 & \text{if } -1 \le x \le 3 \\ -x + 7 & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}$$




$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x + 2 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ -x - 2 & \text{if } x \le 0 \end{cases}$$




$$h(x) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } x > 3 \\ 1 & \text{if } x = 3 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 3 \end{cases}$$

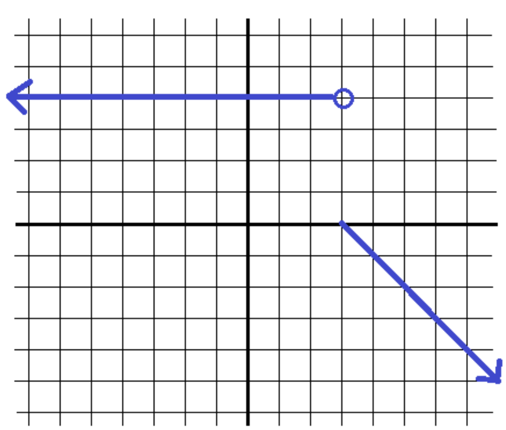


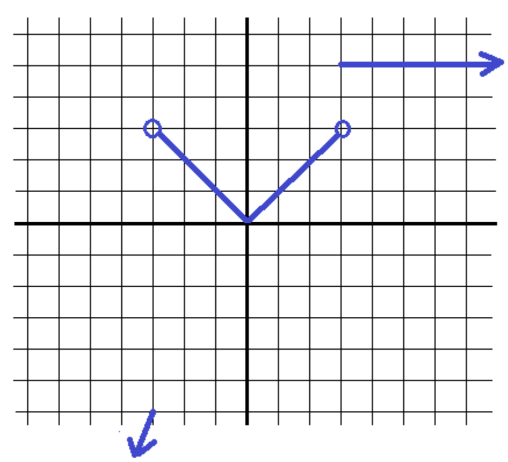

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -3 & \text{if } x < -2 \\ x^2 & \text{if } -2 \le x \le 2 \\ -|x - 4| & \text{if } x > 2 \end{cases}$$

IV: Graphing Piecewise functions

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 4\ , & \text{if } x < 3 \\ -x + 3, & \text{if } x \ge 3 \end{cases}$$

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 2x\ , & \text{if } x < -3 \\ |x|\ , & \text{if } -3 \le x < 3 \\ 5\ , & \text{if } x \ge 3 \end{cases}$$



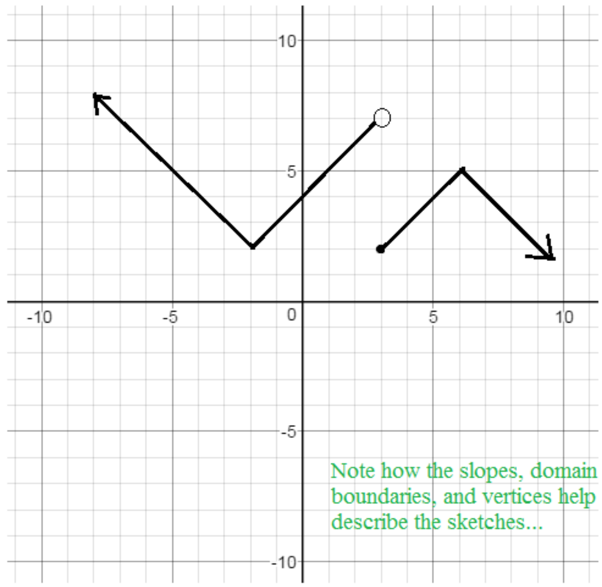


V. Use a minimal number of "pieces" to describe the graphs...

SOLUTIONS

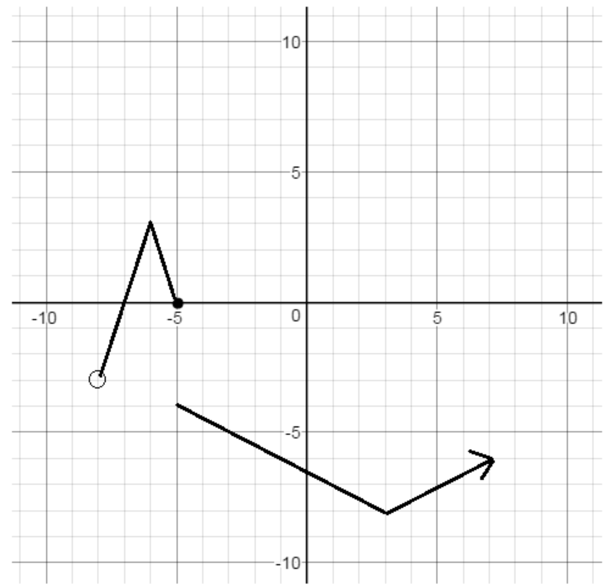
Piecewise Absolute Value Functions

1)



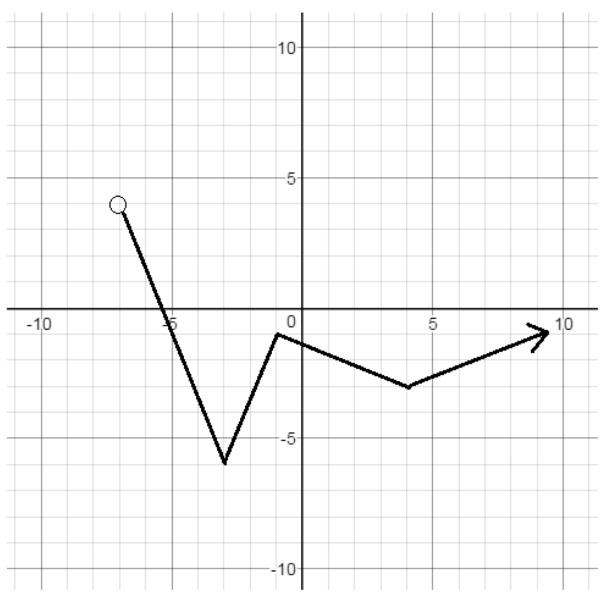

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} |x+2|+2 & \text{if } x < 3 \\ -|x-6|+5 & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

2)



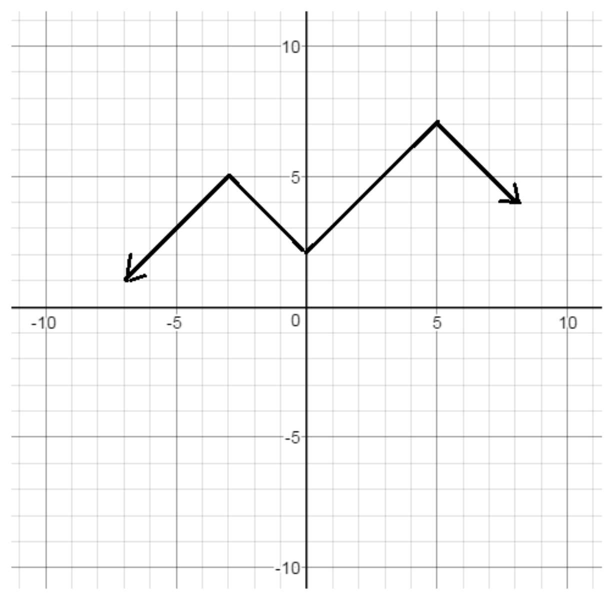
$$g(x) = \begin{cases} -3|x+6|+3 & \text{in the interval } (-8, -5] \\ \frac{1}{2}|x-3|-8 & \text{in the interval } [-5, \infty) \end{cases}$$

3)



$$h(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{5}{2}|x+3|-6 & \text{if } -7 < x \leq -1 \\ \frac{2}{5}|x-4|-3 & \text{if } x > -1 \end{cases}$$

4)



$$p(x) = \begin{cases} -|x+3|+5 & \text{in the interval } (-\infty, 0) \\ -|x-5|+7 & \text{in the interval } (0, \infty) \end{cases}$$

Graph the following piecewise functions. Then, identify the domain and range.

SOLUTIONS

Piecewise Functions: Linear pieces

1)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 3 & \text{if} \quad x < 2 \\ -1 & \text{if} \quad 2 \leq x < 6 \\ -x + 10 & \text{of} \quad x \geq 6 \end{cases}$$

All x values (i.e. places on the graph "left to right")

domain: all real numbers

$( -\infty , \infty )$

All $f(x)$ values (i.e. places on the graph "bottom to top")

range: $f(x) < 5$

$( -\infty , 5 )$

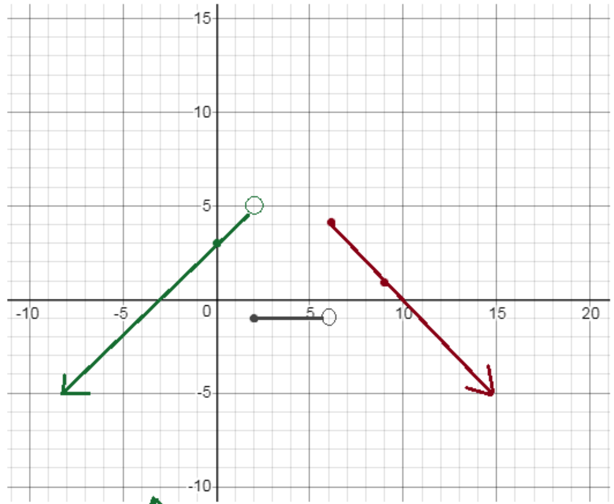
Since the 3 "pieces" will be lines segments or rays, we can use an 'endpoint method' to graph.

The endpoint (boundary) of the first piece occurs at (2, 5). Since it is $x < 2$, it's an open circle.

Then, pick a point left of 2 --- such as (0, 3)... Put that point on the graph and extend a ray from (2, 5) through (0, 3)

The endpoints of the second piece are (2, -1) and (6, -1). Since inputs are $2 \leq x < 6$, the left endpoint is closed and the right endpoint is open...

Finally, the boundary of the 3rd piece occurs at (6, 4)... Then, we can draw a ray through (9, 1)...




2)

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 3 - 4x & \text{if} \quad x < 0 \\ 5 & \text{if} \quad 3 \leq x \leq 7 \\ -x + 10 & \text{if} \quad x \geq 12 \end{cases}$$

domain: it's described in the list of "if" statements!!

$x < 0$ or $3 \leq x \leq 7$ or $x \geq 12$

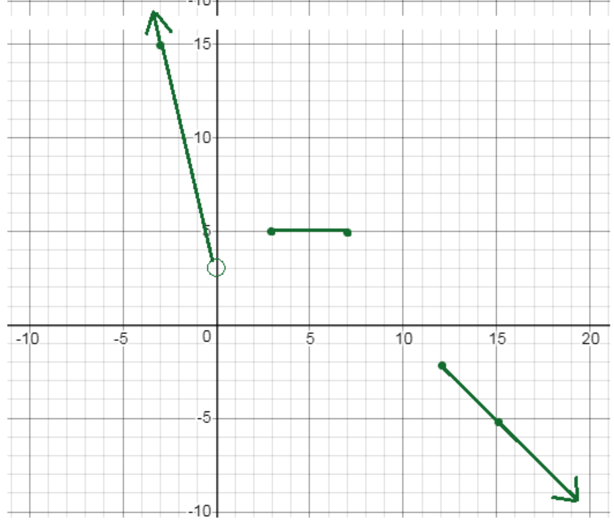
range: $g(x) \leq -2$ or $g(x) > 3$

$( -\infty , -2 ]$ U $(3, \infty )$

The 1st piece, we can use the boundary $x = 0$ (0, 3) open circle and, pick a point less than 0.. (-3, 15) and extend the ray...

The 2nd piece, we can use the endpoints (3, 5) and (7, 5)

The 3rd piece, we can use the endpoint $x = 12$ (12, -2) closed circle and, pick a point greater than 12.. (15, -5) and extend the ray..




3)

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} 2t + 2 & \text{if} \quad 0 < t \leq 4 \\ t + 6 & \text{if} \quad 4 < t \leq 8 \\ 14 & \text{if} \quad t > 8 \end{cases}$$

domain: $t > 0$

$( 0 , \infty )$

range: $2 < h(t) \leq 14$

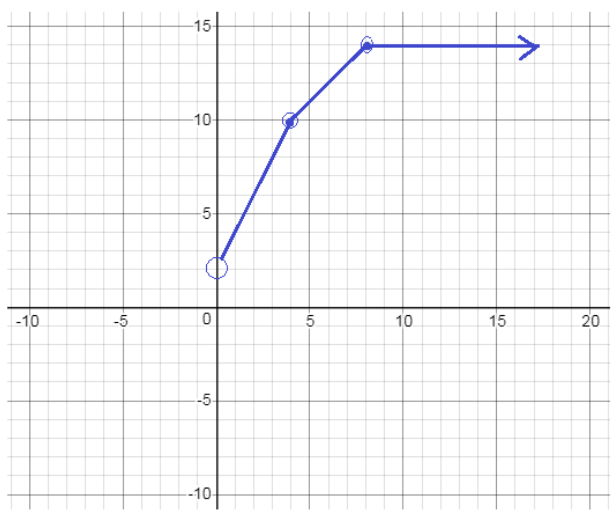
$( 2 , 14 ]$

Again, we have 3 straight pieces...

Endpoints of the 1st piece:
(0, 2) open circle
(4, 10) closed circle

Endpoints of 2nd piece:
(4, 10) open circle
(8, 14) closed circle

Endpoint of 3rd piece:
(8, 14) open circle..
then, horizontal ray extending to the right...



Piecewise Functions: Linear pieces

Describe the following piecewise functions. Determine the domain and range. SOLUTIONS

4)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -3 & \text{if } x \leq -2 \\ 2 & \text{if } -2 < x \leq 7 \\ x - 1 & \text{if } x > 7 \end{cases}$$

Looking at the domain ('movement from left to right') & the endpoints of each piece we can determine the "if" statements..

$<$ for open circles
$\leq$ for closed circles

domain: all real numbers

$(-\infty, \infty)$

range: { -3, 2, and all reals > 6 }

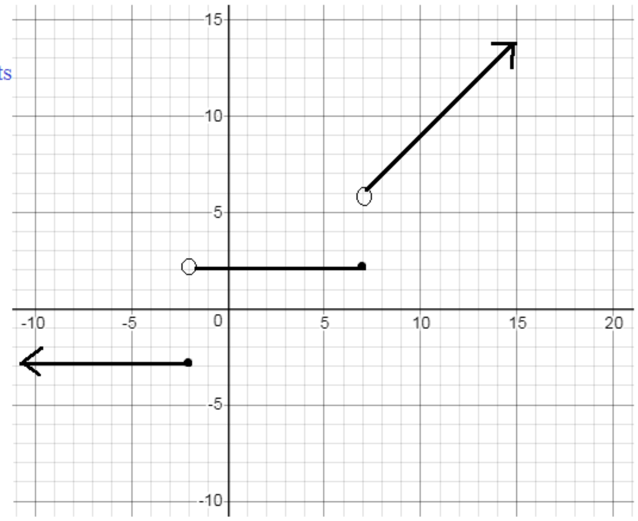
$[-3] \cup [2] \cup (6, \infty)$

1st piece is a horizontal line " y = -3 " where every output is -3

2nd piece is a horizontal line " y = 2 " where every output is 2

3rd piece is ray where the slope is 1..
"y = 1x + b"
To find b, plug in another point... We'll use (10, 9)..

$9 = 1(10) + b \quad b = -1$



5)

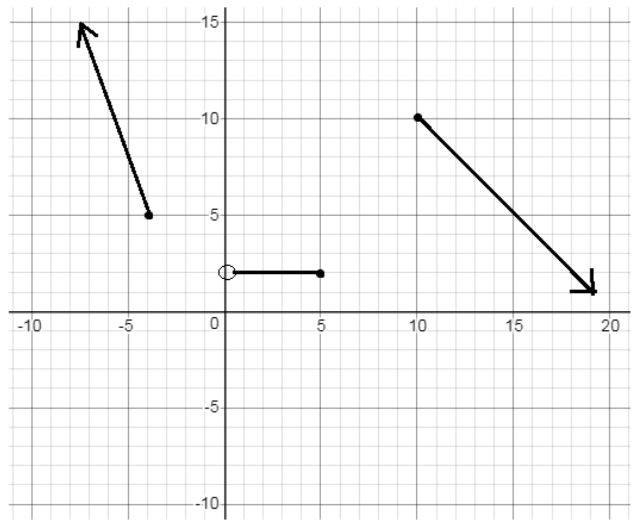
$$g(x) = \begin{cases} -3x - 7 & \text{if } x \leq -4 \\ 2 & \text{if } 0 < x \leq 5 \\ -x + 20 & \text{if } x \geq 10 \end{cases}$$

recognizing the slopes and plugging in points into y = mx + b, we can identify the 1st and 3rd pieces...

domain: (the "if" statements) $x \leq -4$ or $0 < x \leq 5$ or $x \geq 10$

range: since left piece extends indefinitely upward, and right piece extends indefinitely downward, AND they overlap, the range is all real numbers

$(-\infty, \infty)$



6)

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} -x + 12 & \text{if } 0 < x \leq 8 \\ 4 & \text{if } 8 < x \leq 15 \\ x - 11 & \text{if } x > 15 \end{cases}$$

NOTE: since this is a function, there is no overlap in the "if" statements!!

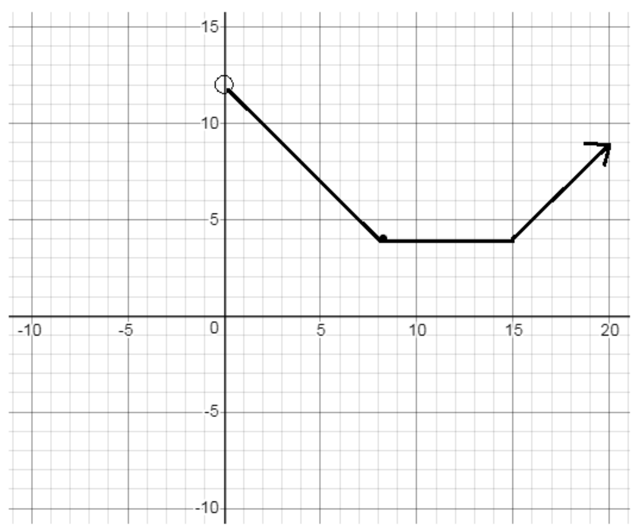
domain: $x > 0$

$(0, \infty)$

range: $h(x) \geq 4$

(the minimum value is 4, and it extends indefinitely upward)

$[4, \infty)$



Graph the following piecewise functions. Then, identify the domain and range.    SOLUTIONS

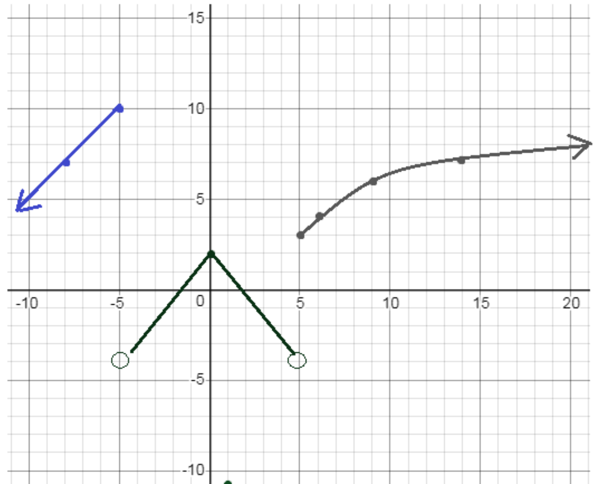
Piecewise Functions: mixed pieces

7) $f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 15 & \text{if } x \le -5 \\ -|x| + 2 & \text{if } -5 < x < 5 \\ \sqrt{x-5} + 3 & \text{if } x \ge 5 \end{cases}$

Since piece 1 is linear, we'll use endpoint method...
Right boundary is (-5, 10)..
And, point (-8, 7) is a point to the left.

Piece 2 is an absolute value function opening downward. The vertex is (0, 2).. And, the endpoints occur at (-5, -3) and (5, -3)...
since < and <. we use open circles

Piece 3 is a square root function that starts at (5, 3) and opens to the right... We'll plot a few points..
(6, 4) (9, 5) (14, 6)




domain: all real numbers

$(-\infty, \infty)$

range: Since the 1st piece extends to negative infinity and the 3rd piece extends to positive infinity, the range is all real numbers...

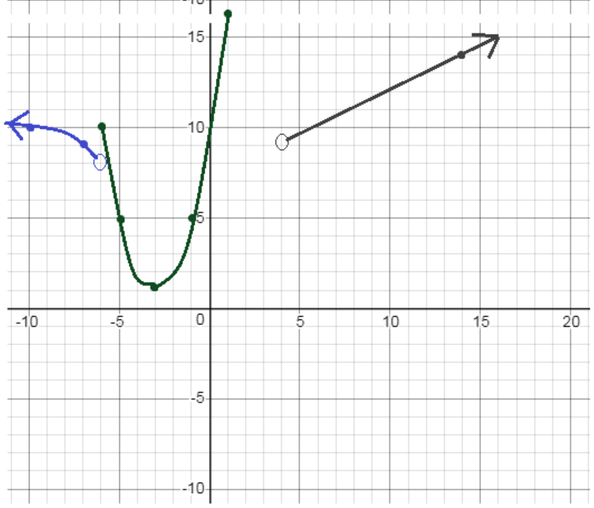
$(-\infty, \infty)$

8) $g(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{-6-x} + 8 & \text{if } x < -6 \\ (x+3)^2 + 1 & \text{if } -6 \le x \le 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}x + 7 & \text{if } x > 4 \end{cases}$

Piece 1 is a square root function opening to the left... We'll plot easy points..
(-6, 8) (-7, 9) (-10, 10)

Piece 2 is a parabola with vertex (-3, 1) that opens up...
We'll identify the endpoints (-6, 10) and (1, 17)...

Piece 3 is a ray that starts at (4, 9) and extends to the right
So, we can draw the ray through (14, 14)




domain: domain is the "if statements"...

$x \le 1$ or $x > 4$

$(-\infty, 1] \cup (4, \infty)$

range: The minimum point is the parabola's vertex...

range is $g(x) \ge 1$

$[1, \infty)$

9) $h(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}(2^x) & \text{if } 1 \le x < 4 \\ 2|x - 10| - 4 & \text{if } x \ge 4 \end{cases}$

The first piece is the line y = x that stops at x = 1

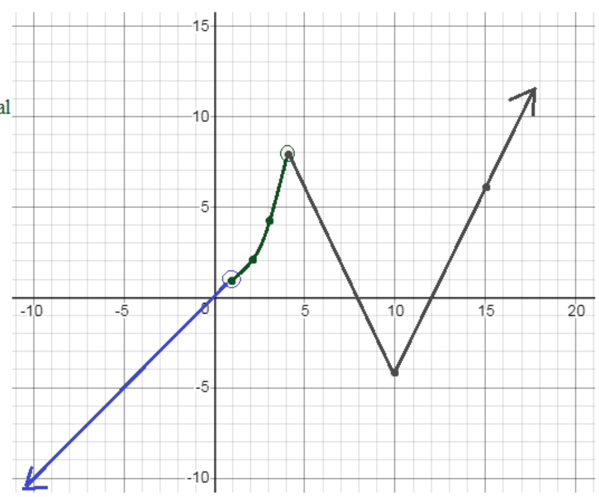
The second piece is a exponential growth function... We'll plot the points x = 1, 2, 3, and 4

The third piece is an absolute value function (that opens up).
The vertex is (10, -4)..
Then, we can find the piece boundary: x = 4

(4, 8)

(10, -4)

(15, 6)




domain: all real numbers

$(-\infty, \infty)$

range: all real numbers

$(-\infty, \infty)$

VI. Piecewise Models (Word Problems) and Concepts

SOLUTIONS

1) A discount book store charges $4 per book..
If a customer buys more than 5, the price drops to $3.50 per book...

Write a piecewise function to model the cost of books..
How much would 20 books cost?

$$c(b) = \begin{cases} 4b & \text{if } b \le 5 \\ 3.5b & \text{if } b > 5 \end{cases}$$

where b is number of books and c(b) is cost of books

c(20) = 70 dollars

2) A store sells t-shirts...

It charges $10 per shirt for the first batch of 50...
Since the store has the screen design,
the next batch of 50 would cost $9 per shirt...
And, all batches after that would cost $8 per shirt....

Write a piecewise function describing the cost of shirts...
How much would 120 shirts cost?

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 10x & \text{if } x \le 50 \\ 9x + 50 & \text{if } 50 < x \le 100 \\ 8x + 100 + 50 & \text{if } x > 100 \end{cases}$$

f(120) = 1110

this represents the 1st 50 shirts which were not discounted

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 10x & \text{if } x \le 50 \\ 9x + \boxed{50} & \text{if } 50 < x \le 100 \\ 8x + \boxed{100} + \boxed{50} & \text{if } x > 100 \end{cases}$$

$2 difference in price for first 50 shirts

$1 difference in price for 2nd 50 shirts

3) A shop down the street sells hats...

It charges $10 per hat.
If a customer purchases more than 30 hats, the owner offers a $1 discount per hat. ($9 per hat)
If a customer buys more than 50 hats, the owner offers another $1 discount ($8 per hat).

Write a piecewise function to describe the cost of hats.
The math club has a budget of $300. How many hats could it buy?

$$c(h) = \begin{cases} 10h & \text{if } h \le 30 \\ 9h & \text{if } 30 < x \le 50 \\ 8h & \text{if } x > 50 \end{cases}$$

If the math club buys 30 hats, it would cost 30 x $10...
HOWEVER, if it bought a few more hats, the cost drops to $9!!

33 hats would cost $297... (34 hats would cost $306)

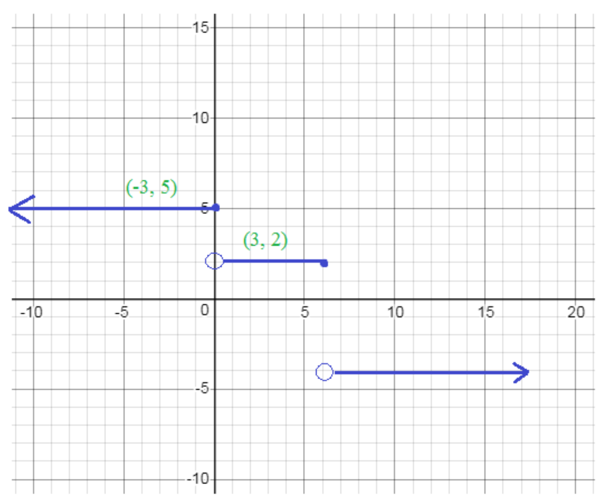
4) Write and graph a piecewise function with the following characteristics.

Domain: all real numbers

Range: { -4, 2, 5 }

$f(3) = 2$ and $f(-3) = 5$

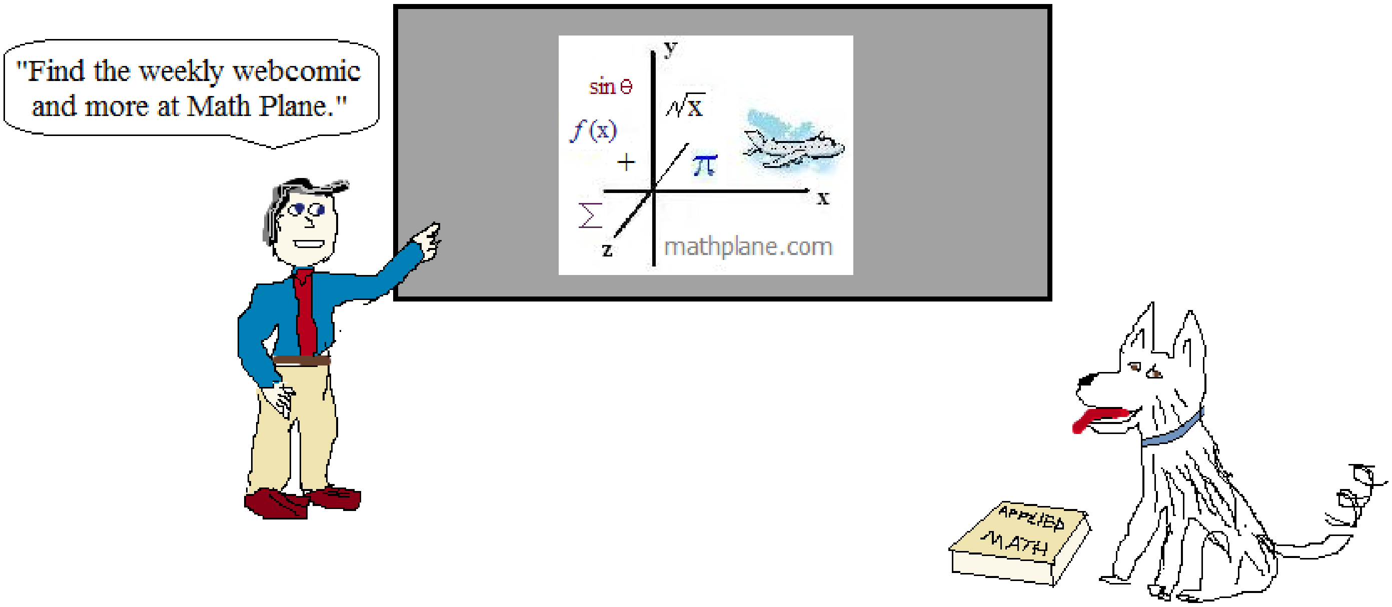
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 5 & \text{if } x \le 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } 0 < x \le 6 \\ -4 & \text{if } x > 6 \end{cases}$$



Thanks for visiting. (Hope it helped!)

If you have questions, suggestions, or requests, let us know.

Cheers

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*One more question:*

If $c(x) = 3x^3 + 5x^2 + 4$,

what is $4c(2b)$ ?

*Answer on the next page…*

If $c(x) = 3x^3 + 5x^2 + 4$,

SOLUTION

what is $4c(2b)$ ?

reminder: $c(1) = 3(1)^3 + 5(1)^2 + 4 = 12$

FIRST, $c(2b) = 3(2b)^3 + 5(2b)^2 + 4$

$= 3(8b^3) + 5(4b^2) + 4$

$= 24b^3 + 20b^2 + 4$

THEN, $4 \cdot c(2b) = 4 \cdot (24b^3 + 20b^2 + 4)$

$= 96b^3 + 80b^2 + 16$