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5.1.2 How can I determine an inverse?

Using a Graph to Determine an Inverse


## \#15

a. Make a careful graph of each function's inverse on the same set of axes as its corresponding function. Look for a way to make the graph without determining the equation of the inverse first. Be prepared to share your strategy with the class.


Is the inverse a function?


Is the inverse a function?

b. Describe the relationship between the coordinates of a function and the coordinates of its inverse. Use tables of the function and its inverse to show what you mean.
\#16 When you look at the graph of a function and its inverse, you can see a symmetrical relationship between the two graphs demonstrated by a line of symmetry.
a. Draw the line of symmetry for each graph in problem 5-15.
b. What is the equation of the line of symmetry for each graph?
c. Why do you think this line makes sense as the line of symmetry between the graph of a function and its inverse?
\#17

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y=\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2}
$$


\#18 Now you will look at the relationship between the domain and range of a function and its inverse.
a. What are the domain and range of $y=\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2}$ ? What are the domain and range of its inverse?
b. How are the domain and range of the original function related to the domain and range of the inverse?
\#20 Write the equation of the inverse of $y=\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2}$. Is there another way to write it? If so, show how the two equations are equivalent. Demonstrate that your inverse equation undoes the original function and use a graphing calculator to check the graphs.
\#21 Consider your equation for the inverse of $y=\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2}$.
a. Is the inverse a function? How can you tell?
b. Use color to trace over the portion of your graph of $y=\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2}$ for which $x \geq 0$. Then use another color to trace the corresponding part of the inverse graph. Write an equation for the traced portion of the inverse graph.
c. In part (b) you restricted the domain of the original function so that the inverse was also a function. Is there a different way to restrict the domain so that the inverse is a function? What is the equation of this inverse function?
\#22 Consider the function $g(x)=(x-3)^{2}$.
a. How can you restrict the domain of $g(x)$ so that its inverse will be a function?
c. What is the equation for $g^{-1}(x)$ ?
b. Graph $y=g(x)$ with its domain restricted, and then graph $y=g^{-1}(x)$ on the same set of axes.

\#23 How can you determine from a graph whether its inverse will be a function? Explain. What are some examples of other functions whose inverses are not functions?

