

CARTESIAN CARTOONS

TO THE TEACHER

Cartesian Cartoons provides math students (grades 4 – 10) with practice using ordered pairs to plot points on a graph in an amusing way.

Students should be familiar with number lines including both positive and negative numbers and the x–y order of the coordinates in an ordered pair of numbers. The cartooning puzzles in this book have been a classroom fixture in many middle school and high school classrooms for more than 25 years. They have consistently proven to be a valuable aid for classroom teachers and an entertaining way for students to reinforce graphing skills.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Provide each student with a copy of the page which lists the ordered pairs of numbers. Also provide them with a piece of graph paper copied from pages 3 and 4 of this book. Actually, any graph paper with a grid of at least 40X50 units will do.

Direct students to join consecutive points with straight lines in the order they are listed. Warn them to begin a new line after encountering the words “line ends”. Also, explain that occasionally a set of consecutive points will be contained within a rectangle which has a star printed beside it. The regions bordered by these sets of points should be shaded in. Encourage students to color or paint their resulting pictures. You’ll be amazed at the enthusiastic response you will get and the cartoon pictures you will have to display on your bulletin board.

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