

# Walking the Plank: Teacher Notes

## Sunshine State Standards

MA.A.3.3.2

MA.D.1.3.1

MA.D.1.3.2

MA.D.2.3.1

MA.D.2.3.2

MA.E.1.3.1

MA.E.3.3.1

## Math Abilities

Conceptual Understanding

Data Collection

Graphing Calculators

Interpret Data

Procedural Knowledge

$y = mx + b$

Graphing Linear Equations

Make Predictions

## Process Standards

Problem Solving

Reasoning

Communication

Connections

Representation

## Hook

Ever thought you could lose weight by the foot, not the pound?

## Group Arrangement

Students work as a whole class

## Tools

- 1 bathroom scale
- 2 textbooks
- 1- 2' X 8' plank

## Procedure

1. Collect the Data:  
Mark the 2' x 8' plank into one foot increments  
Place the plank on the bathroom scale and textbooks as shown below:

***Place graphic here*** (a bathroom scale on one side, 2 stacked books on the other side. The plank is laid so that one end is lying on the scale and the other end is on the books. Line up the ends of the plank with the sides of the scale and the sides of the books.)

Weigh a volunteer at each of the designated locations on the plank.

<b>Independent Variable, X Distance from Scale (Feet)</b>	<b>Dependent Variable, Y Weight (Pounds)</b>
<b>0</b>	
<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	

2. Graph the Data

Use “Distance from Scale (Feet)” as the horizontal scale and “Weight (Pounds)” as the vertical scale. Plot ordered pairs (X,Y).

3. Read the Results

Looking at your graphed points, do they appear to lie along a straight line or curve? Draw the line that best fits your data. Use the graph to answer the following:

A. Find the weight reading for the distances from the scale.

3.5 feet, \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

5.25 feet, \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

7 feet, \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

B. How much does the weight reading decrease each time the person moves another foot away from the scale? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ How can you tell this from the graph? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. What is the person's weight when standing directly on the scale? \_\_\_\_\_ How can you tell this from the graph?

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4. Describe in words how to determine the weight reading if you know how many feet the person is from the scale.
5. Use your description to predict the weight reading for the person when standing 4.75 feet from the scale. Show your work.
6. Describe by equation how to determine the weight reading (Y) if you know how many feet away (X) the person is from the scale:  
Y= \_\_\_\_\_
7. Use your equation to predict the weight reading for the person when standing 6.5 feet away from the scale.



### **Math Connection**

As a result of this activity, students will learn how to collect, graph and interpret data.