8.2

Graphing $f(x) = ax^2 + c$ For use with Exploration 8.2

Essential Question How does the value of *c* affect the graph of $f(x) = ax^2 + c$?



EXPLORATION: Graphing $y = ax^2 + c$

Go to *BigIdeasMath.com* for an interactive tool to investigate this exploration.

Work with a partner. Sketch the graphs of the functions in the same coordinate plane. What do you notice?

a.
$$f(x) = x^2$$
 and $g(x) = x^2 + 2$



b.
$$f(x) = 2x^2$$
 and $g(x) = 2x^2 - 2$



8.2 Graphing $f(x) = ax^2 + c$ (continued)

EXPLORATION: Finding *x*-Intercepts of Graphs

Go to BigIdeasMath.com for an interactive tool to investigate this exploration.

Work with a partner. Graph each function. Find the *x*-intercepts of the graph. Explain how you found the *x*-intercepts.

a.
$$y = x^2 - 7$$



b.
$$y = -x^2 + 1$$



Communicate Your Answer

- **3.** How does the value of c affect the graph of $f(x) = ax^2 + c$?
- 4. Use a graphing calculator to verify your answers to Question 3.
- 5. The figure shows the graph of a quadratic function of the form $y = ax^2 + c$. Describe possible values of *a* and *c*. Explain your reasoning.



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Notetaking with Vocabulary For use after Lesson 8.2

In your own words, write the meaning of each vocabulary term.

zero of a function

8.2

Core Concepts

Graphing $f(x) = ax^2 + c$

- When c > 0, the graph of $f(x) = ax^2 + c$ is a vertical translation *c* units up of the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$.
- When c < 0, the graph of $f(x) = ax^2 + c$ is a vertical translation |c| units down of the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$.

The vertex of the graph of $f(x) = ax^2 + c$ is (0, c), and the axis of symmetry is x = 0.

Notes:



Date

8.2 Notetaking with Vocabulary (continued)

Extra Practice

In Exercises 1–4, graph the function. Compare the graph to the graph of $f(x) = x^2$.

1. $g(x) = x^2 + 5$





3. $n(x) = -3x^2 - 2$



4.
$$q(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 4$$



8.2 Notetaking with Vocabulary (continued)

In Exercises 5–8, find the zeros of the function.

5. $y = -x^2 + 1$ **6.** $y = -4x^2 + 16$

7.
$$n(x) = -x^2 + 64$$
 8. $p(x) = -9x^2 + 1$

In Exercises 9 and 10, sketch a parabola with the given characteristics.

9. The parabola opens down, and the vertex is (0, 5).



10. The lowest point on the parabola is (0, 4).



- **11.** The function $f(t) = -16t^2 + s_0$ represents the approximate height (in feet) of a falling object t seconds after it is dropped from an initial height s_0 (in feet). A tennis ball falls from a height of 400 feet.
 - **a.** After how many seconds does the tennis ball hit the ground?
 - **b.** Suppose the initial height is decreased by 384 feet. After how many seconds does the ball hit the ground?