

A Note To Students

Welcome, math explorers! You are about to embark on an adventure in learning. As you navigate the mathematical terrain in these activities, you will discover that "doing the math" means much more than calculating quickly and accurately. It means using your creativity and insight to question, investigate, describe, analyze, predict, and prove. It means venturing into unfamiliar territory, taking risks, and finding a way forward even when you're not sure which direction to go. And it means discovering things that will expand your mathematical imagination in brand new directions.

Of course, the job of an explorer is hard work. There may be times when it will take a special effort on your part to keep going. You may spend days or more pondering a single question or problem. Sometimes, you might even get completely lost. The process can be demanding—but it is also rewarding. There's nothing quite like the feeling of making a breakthrough after a long stretch of hard work, and seeing a whole new world of ideas open up before your eyes!

These activities are challenging, so you might want to team up with a partner or two on your travels—to discuss plans and strategies, and to share the rewards of your hard work. Even if you don't always reach your final destination, you will find that the journey was worth taking.

So, gear up for some hard work and adventure . . . and start exploring!