

AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

SCHOOLS ENRICHMENT CENTRE (AIMSSEC)

AIMING HIGH



For the teacher: This can be a whole class activity. The learners line up in an array of rows and columns. They can either sit in desks or in rows of chairs or they can stand in rows and columns indoors or out. The first picture shows an array of 20 people with 4 rows and 5 columns but it can be extended for any number of people and to positive and negative coordinates. Learners could follow directions given to the group, to trace a path between positions on the grid either using the coordinates to give positive and negative distances (vectors), or using compass directions. One learner could give directions to the rest of the class.

HELP

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To give directions just say how far you go across, and how far up or down, and in which direction.

Coordinates are very useful in practical applications of mathematics for example for GPS coordinates in mapping.

We can give the position of every point on a flat surface with 2 coordinates and work out the distances between them.

