

Homework: Linear Equations Word Problems

Directions: Read the scenario and answer the questions below.

Scenario 1: In 2018, the current population of Little Town is 32,000 and town officials estimate that the population will continue to grow by 900 every year.

a. What is the initial value (y-intercept) and what does it represent in this situation?

32,000 → current population

b. What is the constant rate of change (slope) and what does it represent in this situation?

900 → population ↑ 900 every year

c. Write an equation that models the population, x years from now using the formula $y = mx + b$.

$$y = 900x + 32,000$$

d. What will the population of the town be in 2026 years?

in 8 years
population @
39,200

$$y = 900(8) + 32,000$$

$$y = 7,200 + 32,000$$

$$y = 39,200$$

e. In what year will the population reach 45,500 people?

$$\begin{array}{r} 45,500 = 900x + 32,000 \\ -32,000 \\ \hline 13,500 = 900x \\ \div 900 \\ \hline 15 = x \end{array}$$

in 15 years from 2018
2033

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e. In what year will the population reach 45,500 people?

Scenario 2: Immediately after giving birth on May 1st, one woman weighed 177 pounds (lbs). She loses approximately 4 lbs per month. Her goal is to get back to her pre pregnancy weight of 135lbs.

a. What is the initial value (y-intercept) and what does it represent in this situation?

177 lbs → weight after pregnancy

b. What is the constant rate of change (slope) and what does it represent in this situation?

-4lb → drop 4 lbs per month

c. Write an equation that models the woman's weight loss per month using the formula $y = mx + b$.

$$y = -4x + 177$$

d. What will her weight be in 3.5 months (August 15th) after giving birth?

$$y = -4(3.5) + 177$$

$$y = -14 + 177$$

$$y = 163 \text{ lbs}$$

She will weight
163 lbs.
in 3.5 months

e. In what month will she reach her goal of 135 lbs?

$$\begin{array}{r} 135 = -4(x) + 177 \\ -177 \quad \quad -177 \\ \hline -48 = -4x \end{array}$$

$$\frac{-48}{-4} = \frac{-4x}{-4}$$

$$12 = x$$

in 12 months
so May of next year.

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