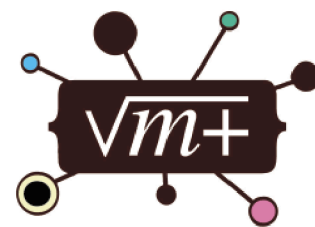




Virtual Math Teams @ The Math Forum



Students say it's more fun. We think that learning math is improved when students explain ideas to each other and collaborate to solve problems together. So we are experimenting with online environments where small groups of students from around the country and the world solve non-routine math problems using a chat interface and a shared whiteboard.

Your students can join Virtual Math Teams!

If you would like your students to participate in periodic online math chats, or if you are interested in learning more about this project, register online at:

<http://mathforum.org/vmt/>

As part of their participation in VMT, your students can form "local" teams and solve math problems online at a time of your choosing, or they can join students from other schools to work in "multi-school" teams during or after school. They can also form their own "open" teams to meet anytime and solve homework problems, study together, or simply do any math they'd like to. Math Forum staff can help coordinate scheduling and can provide feedback if requested by the teams.

When could the sessions be?

- During the school day at the time of your class
- At a scheduled time coordinated among multiple schools
- Whenever your students want to meet online to do math after school

What problems would students solve?

- Non-routine math problems provided the Math Forum or chosen by teachers
- The Math Forum's Problems of the Week (PoW)
- Homework or other math problems brought by students to their sessions

How could teams be formed?

- Teachers form their own local teams
- The Math Forum coordinates team formation with teachers in multiple schools
- Students create their own teams to work on their own



Mod2 : If two equilateral triangles have edgelengths of 9 cubits and 12 cubits, what's the edgelength of the equilateral triangle whose area is equal to the sum of the areas of the other two?

Alrx : interesting!

Pn32 : very

Alrx : I think we can crack it, though...

Alrx : Okay, I think we should start with the formula for the area of a triangle

SrP0 : ok

Alfx : $A = (1/2)bh$...I believe

Pn32 : yes

Alrx : then find the area of each triangle...oh, wait

SrP0 : the base and height are 9 and 12 right?

Alrx : no

SrP0 : o

Alrx : that's two separate triangles!

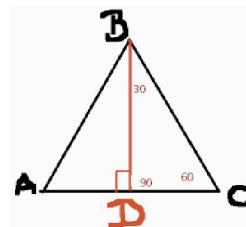
SrP0 : ooo ok

Alrx : right

Alrx : i think we have to figure out the height by ourselves

Pn32 : I know how!

Alrx : I'll draw a picture...



[Edited transcript of a collaborative "Problem of the Week" chat hosted at The Math Forum, Spring 2004. Students' screen names have been changed]



Supported by the National Science Foundation, Grants REC 0325447 and DUE 0333493

PEOPLE LEARNING MATH TOGETHER

The Math Forum is a research and educational enterprise of the Drexel University School of Education.