

You can investigate families of *absolute value functions* with equations of the form  $y = a|x - h| + k$  by varying the values of  $a$ ,  $h$ , and  $k$  and then graphing. The resulting graphs are *transformations* of the graph of the parent function  $y = |x|$ .

\*\*For each Exploration, graph and view each equation one at a time so that you can see how changes in the equation affect the graph.

**Exploration 1 -- Investigate the graph of  $y = |x| + k$ .**

This is how they look on the calculator:

One at a time, enter the following equations.

$$y = |x| \qquad y = |x| + 2 \qquad y = |x| + 5 \qquad y = |x| - 3$$

Press Zoom 6 to view the graph in a standard window.

Q 1. Describe how the family of graphs of  $y = |x| + k$  is related to the graph of  $y = |x|$ . Be specific!

```

Plot1 Plot2 Plot3
\Y1=abs(X)
\Y2=abs(X)+2
\Y3=abs(X)+5
\Y4=abs(X)-3
\Y5=
\Y6=
\Y7=

```

**Exploration 2 -- Investigate the graph of  $y = |x - h|$ .**

This is how they look on the calculator:

Clear out all your old graphs.

Then, one at a time, enter the following equations.

$$y = |x| \qquad y = |x - 2| \qquad y = |x - 4| \qquad y = |x + 5|$$

Press Zoom 6 to view the graph in a standard window.

Q 2. Describe how the family of graphs of  $y = |x - h|$  is related to the graph of  $y = |x|$ . Be specific!

```

Plot1 Plot2 Plot3
\Y1=abs(X)
\Y2=abs(X-2)
\Y3=abs(X-4)
\Y4=abs(X+5)
\Y5=
\Y6=
\Y7=

```

**Exploration 3 -- Investigate the graph of  $y = a|x|$  where  $a > 0$ .**

This is how they look on the calculator:

Clear out all your old graphs.

Then, one at a time, enter the following equations.

$$y = |x| \qquad y = 2|x| \qquad y = 5|x| \qquad y = \frac{1}{2}|x|$$

Press Zoom 6 to view the graph in a standard window.

Q 3. Describe how the family of graphs of  $y = a|x|$  where  $a > 0$ , is related to the graph of  $y = |x|$ . Be specific!

```

Plot1 Plot2 Plot3
\Y1=abs(X)
\Y2=2*abs(X)
\Y3=5*abs(X)
\Y4=(1/2)*abs(X)
\Y5=
\Y6=

```

**Exploration 4 -- Investigate the graph of  $y = a|x|$  where  $a < 0$ .**

Clear out all your old graphs.

Then, one at a time, enter the following equations.

$$y = |x|$$

$$y = -|x|$$

$$y = -3|x|$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}|x|$$

Press Zoom 6 to view the graph in a standard window.

Q 3. Describe how the family of graphs of  $y = a|x|$  where  $a < 0$ , is related to the graph of  $y = |x|$ . Be specific!

**Summarize: Consider the graph of  $y = a|x - h| + k$ . Be specific with your answers.**

Q 4: How does the value of  $k$  affect the graph?

Q 5: How does the value of  $h$  affect the graph?

Q 6: How does the “size” of  $a$  affect the graph? (i.e. what happens if  $a$  is larger or smaller?)

Q 7: How does the sign (positive/negative) of  $a$  affect the graph?

**Apply: Describe how the graph of the given equation is related to the graph of  $y = |x|$ . Be specific. Then graph the given equation along with  $y = |x|$  to confirm your answer.**

$$8. y = |x| + 6$$

$$9. y = |x| - 4$$

$$10. y = |x - 3|$$

$$11. y = |x + 2|$$

$$12. y = \frac{2}{3}|x|$$

$$13. y = -6|x|$$

$$14. y = |x - 1| + 2$$

$$15. y = 3|x + 2|$$

$$16. y = -0.5|x + 1| + 7$$