6-4 EQUATIONS OF CIRCLES

Various quadratic relationships can be placed into equations by knowing the **locus definition** of the relationship. We will explore this for parabolas in a future lesson. In this one, we will develop the **equation** of a **circle** by using the **distance formula** that you learned from Common Core Geometry.


THE DISTANCE FORMULA

The distance between two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) is given by: $D = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$

Exercise #1: A circle is the collection of all points that are a set distance (the radius) away from a point (its center). The circle shown below has a radius of 5 and a center at the point $(4, 2)$. An arbitrary point on the circle, (x, y), is shown marked.

(a) Using the distance formula show that the point $(7, -2)$ must lie on this circle (verify graphically).

(b) Letting $(x_2, y_2) = (x, y)$ and $(x_1, y_1) = (4, 2)$, write the distance formula for all points on this circle.

(c) Square both sides of the equation from (b) to create the standard form of a circle.
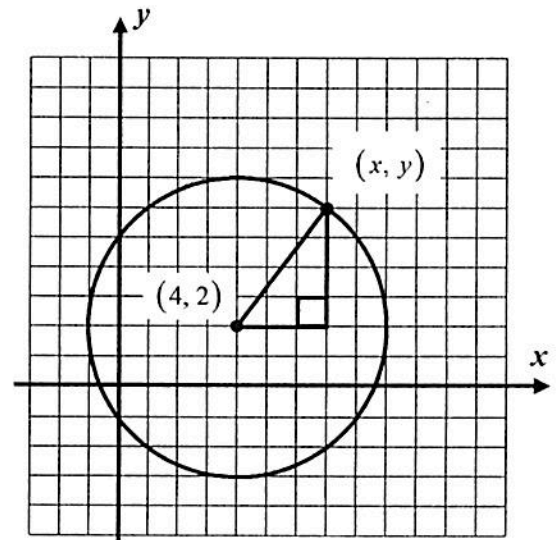
(d) Show algebraically that the point $(1, -2)$ must also lie on the circle.

THE EQUATION OF A CIRCLE

A circle whose center is at (h, k) and whose radius is r is given by: $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$

Exercise #2: Which of the following equations would have a center of $(-3, 6)$ and a radius of 3?

(1) $(x - 3)^2 + (y + 6)^2 = 9$ (3) $(x - 3)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 3$

(2) $(x + 3)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 9$ (4) $(x + 3)^2 + (y + 6)^2 = 3$

Exercise #3: For each of the following equations of circles, determine both the circle's center and its radius. If its radius is not an integer, express it in decimal form rounded to the nearest *tenth*.

(a) $(x-2)^2 +(y-7)^2 = 100$

(b) $(x-5)^2 +(y+8)^2 = 4$

(c) $x^2 + y^2 = 121$
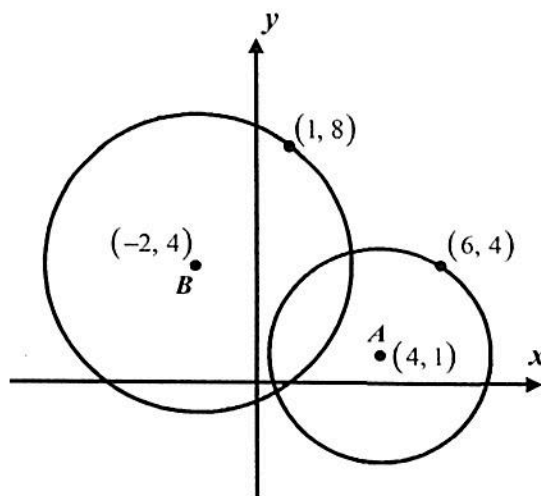
(d) $(x+1)^2 +(y+2)^2 = 1$

(e) $x^2 +(y-3)^2 = 49$

(f) $(x+6)^2 +(y-5)^2 = 18$

(g) $x^2 + y^2 = 64$

(h) $(x-4)^2 +(y-2)^2 = 20$

(i) $x^2 + y^2 = 57$

Exercise #4: Write equations for circles A and B shown below. Show how you arrive at your answers.

Exercise #5: By completing the square on both quadratic expressions in x and y determine the center and radius of a circle whose equation is

$$x^2 +10x+ y^2 -2y = 10$$

$$x^2 -6x + y^2 +10y = 66$$