

Name _____

Period _____

Date: Topic: 10-3 Composition and Inverses of Functions	Essential Question: Does the function $f(x) = x^2$ have an inverse function? Explain your answer.
Standard: F-BF.1c	Compose functions. <i>For example, if $T(y)$ is the temperature in the atmosphere as a function of height, and $h(t)$ is the height of a weather balloon as a function of time, then $T(h(t))$ is the temperature at the location of the weather balloon as a function of time.</i>
Objective:	To find the composite of two given functions and to find the inverse of a given function. Consider the squaring function $f(x) = x^2$ and the doubling function $g(x) = 2x$. As the diagram below shows, these two functions can be combined to produce a new function whose value at x is $f(g(x))$, read "f of g of x." g is the doubling function f is the squaring function 3 $\longrightarrow$ $g(3) = 6$ $\longrightarrow$ $f(g(3)) = f(6) = 36$ 5 $\longrightarrow$ $g(5) = 10$ $\longrightarrow$ $f(g(5)) = f(10) = 100$ x $\longrightarrow$ $g(x) = 2x$ $\longrightarrow$ $f(g(x)) = f(2x) = (2x)^2$ Notice that $f(g(x))$ is evaluated by working from the innermost parentheses to the outside. You begin with x, then g doubles x, and then f squares the result. $f(g(x)) = f(2x) = (2x)^2$
Summary	

Composition of Functions:

The function whose value at x is $f(g(x))$ is called the **composite** of the functions f and g . The operation that combines f and g to produce their composite is called **composition**.

Example 1:

If $f(x) = 3x - 5$ and $g(x) = \sqrt{x}$, find the following:

a. $f(g(4))$

$$\begin{aligned} &= f(\sqrt{4}) \\ &= f(2) \\ &= 3 \cdot 2 - 5 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

b. $g(f(4))$

$$\begin{aligned} &= g(3 \cdot 4 - 5) \\ &= g(7) \\ &= \sqrt{7} \end{aligned}$$

c. $f(g(x))$

$$\begin{aligned} &= f(\sqrt{x}) \\ &= 3 \cdot \sqrt{x} - 5 \end{aligned}$$

d. $g(f(x))$

$$\begin{aligned} &= g(3 \cdot x - 5) \\ &= \sqrt{3 \cdot x - 5} \end{aligned}$$

Notice in Example 1 that $f(g(x)) \neq g(f(x))$.

This is often; although as we shall see, not always the case.

Exercise 1:

If $f(x) = \frac{x}{2}$ and $g(x) = x - 3$, find the following:

a. $f(g(8))$

b. $f(g(-5))$

c. $g(f(8))$

d. $g(f(-5))$

Example 2:

For the two functions f and g defined in Example 2, the composites $f(g(x))$ and $g(f(x))$ are both equal to the identity function.

$$f(I(x)) = f(x) \quad \text{for all functions } f$$

For the two functions f and g defined in Example 2, the composites $f(g(x))$ and $g(f(x))$ are both equal to the identity function.

a. $g(1)$

$$= -2$$

$$= f(-2)$$

$$= \frac{-2 + 4}{2} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$$

$$= \frac{-3 + 4}{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= g\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} - 4$$

$$= -3$$

Parts (a) through (d) suggest that the functions f and g "undo each other." Parts (e) and (f) prove that this is so for any number x .

e. $f(g(x))$

$$= f(2x - 4)$$

$$= \frac{(2x - 4) + 4}{2}$$

$$= \frac{2x + 4 - 4}{2}$$

$$= \frac{2x}{2}$$

$$= x$$

f. $g(f(x))$

$$= g\left(\frac{x + 4}{2}\right)$$

$$= 2\left(\frac{x + 4}{2}\right) - 4$$

$$= x + 4 - 4$$

$$= x$$

Exercise 2:

If $f(x) = x^3$ and $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$, find the following:

a. $f(g(8))$

b. $g(f(8))$

c. $f(g(-27))$

d. $g(f(-27))$

Inverse Functions:

In multiplication, two numbers whose product is the identity 1, such as 2 and 2^{-1} are called inverses. Similarly, two functions whose composite is the identity I , such as f and g in Example 2, are called **inverse functions**.

Inverse Functions

The functions f and g are **inverse functions** if

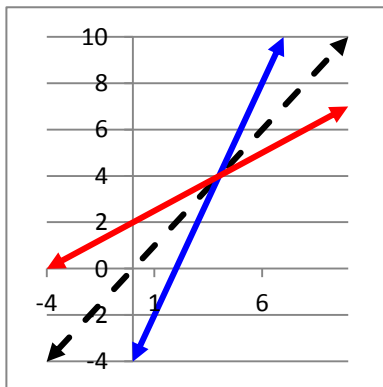
$f(g(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of g
and

$g(f(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of f

Caution:

The inverse of a function f is usually denoted f^{-1} , read " f inverse." The superscript -1 in f^{-1} is **not** an exponent. The symbol $f^{-1}(x)$ denotes the value of f inverse at x ; it does **not** mean $\frac{1}{f(x)}$.

Suppose that two functions f and g are inverses and that $f(a) = b$, so that (a, b) is on the graph of f . Then $g(b) = g(f(a)) = a$, and the point (b, a) must be on the graph of g . This means every point (a, b) on the graph of f corresponds to a point (b, a) on the graph of g . Therefore, the graphs are **mirror images** of each other with respect to the line $y = x$. You can verify this by drawing graphs of inverse functions on the same axes. A computer or a graphing calculator may be helpful. The diagram shows the inverse functions of Example 2.



Horizontal-Line Test:

Some functions do not have inverse functions. If the reflection of the graph of a function f is itself to be the graph of a function, the graph of f must **not** contain two different points with the same y -coordinate. Therefore, a function has an inverse function if and only if it is one-to-one.

As you learned in Lesson 10-2, every horizontal line intersects the graph of a one-to-one function in at most one point. Therefore, you can use the **horizontal-line test** to tell whether a given function has an inverse function.

Horizontal-Line Test

A function has an inverse function if and only if every horizontal line intersects the graph of the function in **at-most** one point.

If a function has an inverse function, you can find it by writing y for $f(x)$, interchanging x and y , and solving for y . Example 3 illustrates.

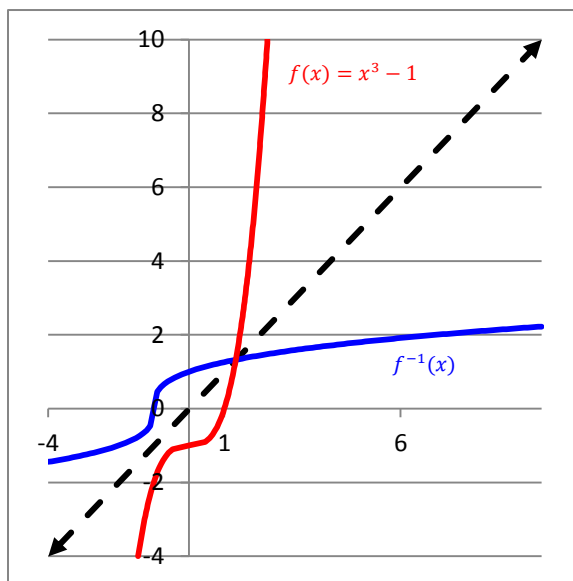
Example 3:

Let $f(x) = x^3 - 1$.

- Graph f and determine whether f has an inverse function. If so, graph f by reflecting f across the line $y = x$.
- Find $f^{-1}(x)$.

Solution:

- a. The graph of f is shown in red below. The graph of f passes the horizontal-line test, so f has an inverse. The graph of f^{-1} , shown in blue, is the reflection of the graph of f across the line $y = x$.



- b. Replace $f(x)$ by y :

$$y = x^3 - 1$$

Interchange x and y :

$$x = y^3 - 1$$

Solve for y :

$$y^3 = x + 1$$

$$y = \sqrt[3]{x + 1}$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{x + 1}$$

