# ALGEBRA 2/PRECALCULUS 




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## RATIONAL FUNCTIONS - A FOUR-SQUARE ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE:

Students will work cooperatively, in groups of four, to analyze a given rational function. Tasks include factoring, finding both $x$-intercept and $y$-intercept, horizontal and vertical asymptotes, and the coordinates of the hole. When completed, students are given the task to graph the function.

## PREPARATION:

Copy the handouts for students. Assign students to groups of four. Have them work through the activity. "Bouncing" through the "FOUR-SQUARE" until they complete the assignment.

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## Rationals 4-Way Form A Names:



## Rationals 4-Way Form B Names:



GIVEN:

$$
f(x)=\frac{x^{2}+2 x-8}{x^{2}-x-2}
$$

PERSON \#1: Factor the function

$$
y=\frac{(x+4)(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+1)}
$$

PERSON \#2: Check and initial: $\qquad$
PERSON \#3: Find the $y$-intercept

$$
y=\frac{0+4}{0+1} \quad y=4 \quad(0,4)
$$

PERSON \#2: Find the $x$-intercept

$$
\begin{gathered}
y=\frac{x+4}{x+1} \\
x+4=0 \\
x=-4
\end{gathered}
$$

PERSON \#3: Check and initial: $\qquad$
PERSON \#4: Find the horizontal asymptote

$$
y=1
$$

PERSON \#1: Check and initial: $\qquad$
Person \#2: Find the coordinates of the hole.

$$
\begin{gathered}
f(2)=\frac{2+4}{2+1}=\frac{6}{3} \\
(2,2)
\end{gathered}
$$

PERSON \#4: Check and initial: $\qquad$
PERSON \#3: Check and initial: $\qquad$
PERSON \#3: Graph the asymptotes.
PERSON \#4: Graph the function.
PERSON \#1: Label the $x$-intercept.
PERSON \#2: Label the $y$-intercept.




## CREDITS

Fonts and clip art provided by these gifted artists:


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