Technology Activity

Graphing Non-Linear Functions

GOAL Use a graphing calculator to graph non-linear functions.

Example

Use a graphing calculator to compare the functions.

$$y_1 = x^2$$

$$y_1 = x^2$$
 $y_2 = 2x^2$ $y_3 = 3x^2$ $y_4 = 4x^2$

$$y_3 = 3x^2$$

$$y_A = 4x^2$$



You may need to adjust your viewing window in order to see the graphs.

Solution

Use the following keystrokes to enter the functions into a graphing calculator:

Keystrokes

ENTER

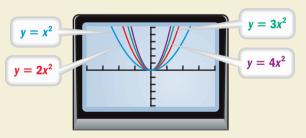
ENTER

Y₂ 3 ×

GRAPH

Display





ANSWER The graphs are curves that pass through (0, 0). As the coefficient of x^2 increases, the curve gets narrower.

Your turn now Graph the functions using a graphing calculator. Describe the pattern in the graphs.

1.
$$y = x^2 + 5$$

2.
$$y = x^2 - 5$$

1.
$$y = x^2 + 5$$
 2. $y = x^2 - 5$ **3.** $y = x^2 + 7$ **4.** $y = x^2 - 7$

4.
$$y = x^2 - 7$$

Graph the functions. Describe the pattern in the graphs.

5.
$$y = -x^2$$

6.
$$y = -2x$$

7.
$$y = -3x^2$$

5.
$$y = -x^2$$
 6. $y = -2x^2$ **7.** $y = -3x^2$ **8.** $y = -4x^2$

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