

Welcome activities 1 and 2

by – Heidi Rudolph

Activity overview

Students will be expected to utilize several new tools and menus on the TI-Nspire™ CAS handheld. They will answer questions and interact with spreadsheets and graphs. By successfully completing both activities, each student can earn a “Temporary” Driver’s License and a “Driver’s License” (I created them in Publisher). This theme could be carried out in several more activities during your lessons or unit. It is age appropriate for high school 9th and 10th graders to be thinking about Driver’s Ed and studying for their Temporary test, and practicing before they “go on the road.” Have fun with this!

Concepts

Sets of numbers (real, rational, irrational, natural numbers, etc.) or any introductory lessons. These activities could be edited to include questions about other topics or about your classroom procedures or a survey of students’ interests in order to get to know them better!

Teacher preparation

Preload the two files onto the students’ calculators. Some introduction to the calculator buttons will be useful to facilitate the students’ success with both activities. Previous instruction or review in the sets of numbers would also contribute to students’ ability to answer the questions more effectively (rather than the students typing in “I don’t know” as their response). Plan some other activities around the driving theme if possible. Perhaps students could research their favorite car and its gas mileage, cost, etc. Perhaps students could survey other classes about their favorites.

Classroom management tips

Have the certificates printed out and ready to go! Perhaps provide a “cheat sheet” with some keystrokes and menus. Have several extensions ready for those students who finish early. Prepare to link the students’ files to the classroom computer to either print them out or share them with the class via a data projector or a document camera. Student pride will grow if their work is shared with the class.

TI-Nspire Applications

Notes, Graphs and Geometry, Spreadsheets, Calculator

Step-by-step directions

Students will open a document called welcome1 and proceed as directed through the file. The same is repeated in welcome2. No written instructions are required, nor is a paper necessary to record student answers. All responses are entered into the TI-Nspire document file by the student. Collection will eventually be done through Classroom Connect software.



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Grade level: 9-12

Subject: mathematics

Time required: 45 to 90 minutes

Materials:

Assessment and evaluation

- *This activity is meant to be used as formative assessment for understanding of the basics of the sets of numbers.*
- *Discussion can take place following the completion of the activity by all students. Extensions need not be discussed. Feedback can be given to individual students.*

Activity extensions

Have students create a file themselves which asks for the students to use even more features that have not yet been used.

- *Create a drawing in the Geometry application (like a simple scene with a stick figure and a house or a tree). This involves hiding the axes and function line. Have the students apply several different commands or tools in the various drawing choices.*
- *Have students input some data into a Spreadsheet and perform certain functions within the Spreadsheet, utilizing its "Excel" type functionality. For example, take a set of numbers and add 10, multiply by 10 and divide by 10.*
- *Add a Welcome 3 file that asks students to write a private note page to you that tells some brief facts about themselves or about their summer.*

Student TI-Nspire Document

Welcome12_Screenshots.doc