

The King's Chessboard
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This lesson should take approximately 2-3 class periods (80 minutes each)

This Activity is written for use with the TI-84 plus keypad and the TI-Navigator, but could be easily modified for use with the TI-73 Explorer

Math Content: exponential equations, linear equations, graphing, making lists

Appropriate for: Algebra I and Middle Grades Math

General Overview:

Part I: Send Quick Poll

“Would you rather have a dollar a day for ten days or a penny for the first day, two pennies the next day, four pennies the next day and continue to double the day before for ten days?”



KingsChessLaunchQP
.edc

Part II: Read the story “The King’s Chessboard” by David Birch

Part III: Have students use paper chessboards to calculate the amount of rice the peasant will receive.

Part IV: Hand out activity sheet and card sets for “Offering the King Advice”.

TIP: Copy each set of clues on a different color card stock and laminate to use year after year.

TIP: Have students deal out the clues and make them tell each other their clues without anyone looking at them to improve communication and cooperative grouping skills.



Giving the King
Advice Card Clues.do



Offering the King
Advice Worksheet.do

Part V: Discuss the students’ findings and have each group present one of the plans to the class

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