Note to the Teacher
Please read this before you duplicate the Student Workbook.

This Smart Skies ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ FlyBy Math ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Student Workbook contains activities for one Air Traffic Control problem. In particular, the Workbook includes worksheets for 6 different calculation methods your students can use to solve the problem:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\text { —Count feet and seconds } & \text { —Draw and stack blocks } & \text { —Plot points on two vertical lines } \\
\text { —Plot points on a grid } & \text { —Use the distance-rate-time formula } & \text {-Graph two linear equations }
\end{array}
$$

You will most likely want to assign only 1 or 2 of the calculation methods. So we recommend that you follow these steps before you duplicate the Workbook.


1. Select and Keep:

Choose the calculation method(s) you want your students to use.

2. Recycle the Rest:

Remove the calculation worksheets you do not wish to assign.
To find the calculation worksheets, look for the Calculations footers at the page bottoms.

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Other activity worksheets follow the Calculation pages. Be sure to remove the Calculation worksheets ONLY.

For more information about Smart Skies ${ }^{T M}$ workbooks, please see the Smart Skies ${ }^{\top M}$ teacher materials available online at:
https://www.nasa.gov/smartskies/flybymath
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## Math \& Science for Air Traffic Control



## Problem \#5

- Aircraft are on the same route
- Aircraft are traveling at different speeds
- Aircraft start at different distances along the route
- The trailing aircraft is traveling faster than the leading aircraft


## STUDENT WORKBOOK

Investigator: $\qquad$
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Begin Your Challenge: When will two planes, flying on the same jet route, meet?

## Flight NAL63

- NAL63 is 10 feet ( 3.0 meters) ahead of the route start.
- The NAL63 speed is $1 / 4$ foot per second ( 0.08 meters/second).

1 Write the speed of NAL63 in the box next to its picture.

2
How far does NAL63 travel in 1 second?


3
How far does NAL63 travel in 10 seconds?



## Flight WAL27

- WAL27 is 1at the start of the route (0 feet).
- The WAL27 speed is $1 / 2$ foot per second ( 0.15 meters/second).

4 Write the speed of WAL27 in the box next to its picture.

5 How far does WAL27 travel in 1 second?


How far does WAL27 travel in 10 seconds?

To meet your Challenge, you will:

- Conduct an experiment.
- Do some math calculations.
- Analyze your results

Then, you will use your results to answer this question:

- How many seconds will it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63?


## Flight NAL63



Begin at the start of the jet route.

Use chalk or masking tape to mark off a line 25 feet long.

- The NAL63 pilot has a 10 -foot headstart.

2
Measure 10 feet from the route start and make a mark on the left side of the route. Place a "Pilot" label next to the mark.


Layout the jet routes.


Mark the speed control lines.


## Flight WAL27

3
At the jet route start, make a mark on the right side of the route.

Place a "Pilot" label next to the mark.

## Flight WAL27

Begin at the start of the jet route.

Place a mark (or piece of tape) every $1 / 2$ foot ( 6 inches) along the right side of the jet route all the way to the end of the jet route.

You need to make the mark (or piece of tape) at least 1 foot long.

6
Fill in this table with the starting conditions.

| Flight Number | Speed (ft/sec) | Distance from the start of the <br> jet route $(\mathrm{ft})$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| WAL27 |  |  |
| NAL63 |  |  |

Circle your role on the route diagram on the right.

Record the starting conditions for the experiment.


Make your prediction


How many seconds will it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63?
$\square$ seconds


Circle your role and the steps below it. Then, do the experiment 3 times using the steps for your role.

| STEPS | Lead Air Traffic Controller | Pilot | NASA Scientist |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Take Your Position | Give the command: "Take your positions." | Go to your position on your side of the jet route. | Go to your position. |
| Get Ready to Start | Give the command: "Ready." | Practice stepping down your route. |  |
| 3 Start the Experiment | Start your stopwatch. Count seconds: "1", "2",... | Take your first step on "1". On each count, take a step to the next mark. | Wait for WAL27 to catch up to NAL63 |
| Stop the Experiment | When you hear "Halt", stop counting seconds. | When you hear "Halt", stop where you are. | When WAL27 catches up, say <br> "Halt". Record the seconds. |

## Record the data

10 Record the Halt Time measured by the NASA Scientist.

11
Use the results of your three experiments to choose the best answer to this question:


Experiment


How many seconds will it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63?

## Flight NAL63

- Starts 10 feet from the point where the route begins (a 10-foot headstart).
- In 1 second, it moves $1 / 4$ foot.
- In 4 seconds, it moves 1 foot—from 10 feet to 11 feet.

1
On the left side of the jet route, find the 11 -foot mark and trace " 4 sec ."

- In the next 4 seconds (8 seconds total), NAL63 moves another foot-from 11 feet to 12 feet.

2
On the left side of the jet route, find the 12-foot mark and trace " 8 sec."

3 Keep going on the left side of the jet route, one foot at a time, until you reach the end of the jet route.

At each foot-mark, write the total number of seconds to reach that mark.

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7 How many seconds will it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63? That is, after how many seconds will WAL27 and NAL63 be in the same place at the same time?


8 What would you tell the air traffic controller to do to avoid a collision?
$\qquad$

Your Task: Calculate when two planes flying on the same route will meet.

## Use blocks to picture feet and seconds.

In this table, fill in the distance Flight WAL27 will travel in 10 seconds.

The speed of each plane is $1 / 2$ foot per second.

| Flight WAL27 takes... | 1 second | 2 seconds | 10 seconds |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| to travel... | $1 / 2$ foot | 1 foot | feet |



2 In this table, fill in the distance Flight NAL63 will travel in 10 seconds.
The speed of Flight NAL63 is $1 / 4$ foot per second.

| Flight NAL63 takes... | 1 second | 2 seconds | 10 seconds |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| to travel... | $1 / 4$ foot | 1 foot | feet |

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$\qquad$

## Follow along with this example of how to plot points and stack blocks.

## Flight NAL63

- Starts 10 feet from the point where the route begins (a 10-foot headstart).
- In 1 second, it moves $21 / 2$ feet.
- Now it is $121 / 2$ feet along the route.

3
Circle the $\mathbf{0}$ for NAL63 at the $121 / 2$ foot point on the "10-second" jet route.

4
Trace the 10-second block for NAL63.



Now draw and connect at 30 seconds.

- Starts where the route begins (at 0 feet).
- In 10 seconds, it moves 5 feet.
- Now it is $\mathbf{5}$ feet along the route.


Circle the $\mathbf{X}$ for WAL27 at the 5-foot point on the "10-second" jet route

## 6

Trace the 10-second block for WAL27.

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## Flight NAL63 and Flight WAL27

7
On the " 20 -second" route, draw an $\mathbf{0}$ to show the position of NAL63 after 20 seconds.

Trace the block on the graph below that shows the position of NAL63 after 20 seconds.

9
On the "20-second" route, draw an $\mathbf{X}$ to show the position of WAL27 after 20 seconds.

10
Trace the block on the graph below that shows the position of WAL27 after 20 seconds.

Connect your blocks with a line marked " 20 sec ."

Jet Route "Snapshots" at 10 -second Intervals



## Now draw and connect at 30 seconds.

12
On the " 30 -second" route, plot an $\mathbf{0}$ and an $\mathbf{X}$ to show the position of each plane at 30 seconds.

13
On the graph, draw blocks to show the position of each plane at 30 seconds.

14
Connect the blocks at 30 seconds.

## Keep going...

15 Keep going until WAL27 closes the gap and catches up with NAL63.

Be sure to connect your blocks.

Smart

Answer the questions.

How many seconds did it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63? $\square$ seconds

What would you tell the air traffic controller to do to avoid a collision?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Your Task: Calculate when two planes flying on the same route will meet.

## Flight NAL63

- Starts 10 feet from the point where the route begins (a 10-foot headstart).
- In 10 seconds, it moves $21 / 2$ feet.
- Now it is $121 / 2$ feet along its route.


Circle the $\mathbf{0}$ for NAL63 at the $121 / 2$-foot point on the "10-second" jet route.

2
Circle the $\mathbf{0}$ at the $12 \frac{1}{2}$-foot point on the NAL63 line graph.


## Flight WAL27

- Starts where the route begins (at 0 feet).
- In 10 seconds, it moves 5 feet.
- Now it is 5 feet along its route.

3
Circle the $\mathbf{X}$ at the 5 -foot point on the "10-second" jet route.

4
Circle the $\mathbf{X}$ at the 5 -foot point on the WAL27 line graph.

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Flight WAL27 and Flight NAL63

5 On the " 20 -second" route, draw an $\mathbf{0}$ to show the position of NAL63 after 20 seconds

6
On the line graph, draw an $\mathbf{0}$ to show the position of NAL63 after 20 seconds

On the "20-second" route, draw an $\mathbf{X}$ to show the position of WAL27 after 20 seconds

8
On the line graph, draw an $\mathbf{X}$ to show the position of WAL27 after 20 seconds


On the line graph, connect your $\mathbf{X}$ and $\mathbf{0}$ with a line marked " 20 sec ".


Smart

Answer the questions.

How many seconds did it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63?

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Your Task: Calculate when two planes flying on the same routes will meet.

## Follow along with this example of how to plot points.

## Flight NAL63

- Starts 10 feet from the point where the route begins (a 10-foot headstart).
- In 10 seconds, it moves $21 / 2$ feet.
- Now it is $121 / 2$ feet along its route.


Circle the $\mathbf{0}$ for NAL63 at the $121 / 2$ foot point on the "10-second" jet route.

2
Circle the $\mathbf{0}$ at the point ( $10,121 / 2$ ) on the grid.


Time traveled

## Flight WAL27

- Starts where the route begins (at 0 feet).
- In 10 seconds, it moves 5 feet.
- Now it is 5 feet along its route.

3
Circle the $\mathbf{X}$ for the WAL27 at the 5 -foot point on the "10-second" jet route.

Circle the $\mathbf{X}$ at the point $(10,5)$ on the grid.

Smart
$\qquad$

## Now it's your turn to plot points.

Flight NAL63 and Flight WAL27
5 On the "20-second" route, draw an 0 to show the position of NAL63 after 20 seconds

6
On the line graph, draw an $\mathbf{0}$ to show the position of NAL63 after 20 seconds

7 On the "20-second" route, draw an $\mathbf{X}$ to show the position of WAL27 after 20 seconds

On the grid, draw an $\mathbf{X}$ to show the position of WAL27 after 20 seconds

Smart

Answer the questions.

How many seconds did it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63? $\square$ seconds
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


## Your Task: Calculate when two planes flying on the same route will meet.

## Find a pattern.

- The speed of Flight WAL27 is 0.5 feet per second.


| In this many seconds... | Each plane travels this many feet... |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.5 feet/second x | 1 | second = |  | feet |
| 2 | 0.5 feet/second x | 2 | second = | 1.0 | feet |
| 3 | 0.5 feet/second x | 3 | second = |  | feet |
| 4 | feet/second x |  | second = |  | feet |
| 5 | feet/second $x$ |  | second = |  | feet |
| 6 | feet/second $x$ |  | second = |  | feet |

2
How could you use multiplication to find the distance Flight WAL27 travels in 14 seconds?

- The pattern in the table suggests this rule:
"To find the distance traveled, multiply the speed by the time traveled."
- In math and science, we often say "rate" instead of "speed."
- So we can write a rule like this:

$$
\text { distance }=\text { rate } \times \text { time }
$$

- This relationship is call the Distance-Rate-Time Formula.
- We often write it like this:


## Distance-Rate-Time Formula

$$
d=r \bullet t
$$

3 Use the formula to answer this question:


- The speed of Flight NAL63 is $1 / 4$ foot per second.

4 Use the formula to answer this question:
How many feet does Flight
NAL63 travel in 20 seconds? $\square$

## Smart

We can use the formula to find an equation that describes the distance traveled by each plane.

## Flight NAL63

The NAL63 rate is $1 / 4$ foot per second.

- NAL63 has a 10 -foot headstart. (When you start your stopwatch at $\mathrm{t}=0$, NAL63 has already traveled 10 feet).

Distance-Rate-Time Formula
$\mathrm{d}=\mathrm{r} \cdot \mathrm{t}$

## Flight WAL27

The NAL63 rate is $1 / 2$ foot per second.

So

$$
d=1 / 2 t
$$

So

$$
d=1 / 4 t+10
$$

For each plane, use its equation to fill in the table.

Experiment
Distance traveled by Flight
NAL63
Distance traveled by Flight WAL27

$\square$ seconds
How many seconds did it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63?
$\square$ What would you tell the air traffic controller to do to avoid a collision? $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Your Task: Calculate when two planes flying on the same route will meet.

## Flight NAL63

- We can use the Distance-Rate-Time formula

$$
d=r \bullet t
$$

to find d, the distance in feet NAL63 travels in $t$ seconds.

- The NAL63 rate is $1 / 4$ foot per second.
- NAL63 has a $10-\mathrm{foot}$ headstart. (When you start your stopwatch at $t=0$, NAL63 has already traveled 10 feet.)

So...
$d=(1 / 4) t+10$

Find an equation that describes the distance traveled by each plane.


Flight WAL27

- We can use the Distance-Rate-Time formula
$d=r \bullet t$
to find d, the distance in feet NAL63 travels in t seconds.
- The WAL27 rate is $1 / 2$ feet per second. So...
$d=(1 / 2) t$


## Fill in each table.

Fill in the table for NAL63.

$$
d=(1 / 4) t+10
$$

| $t$ <br> seconds | $d$ <br> feet |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0 |  |
| 10 |  |
| 20 |  |
| 30 |  |
| 40 |  |

3
Use an $\mathbf{0}$ to graph each point in the NAL63 table.

Use a solid line to connect the points.

Smart collision?

Answer the questions.

How many seconds will it take WAL27 to close the 10-foot gap and catch up with NAL63?

That is, after how many seconds will WAL27 and NAL63 be in the same place at the same time?

6
What would you tell the air traffic controller to do to avoid a



Write the number that is the slope of the solid line representing NAL63.

Write the number that is the slope of the dotted line representing WAL27.

9 What information does the slope of the line tell you about each plane?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


Your Task: Analyze and explain your results. Then apply what you learned to another problem.

## Compare your math results with your experimental data.

1 Use your experimental data and math results to fill in this table:


2 Do your experimental and your math results match?
Yes
$\square$ No $\square$

If No, why do you think they don't match?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Which is correct? Why? $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Compare the speeds and compare the distances.

- The WAL27 rate is $1 / 2$ foot per second.
- The NAL63 rate is $1 / 4$ foot per second.

7 What is the relationship between the difference in speeds and the speed at which WAL27 is closing the gap?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

- Suppose the speed of WAL27 were $3 / 4$ foot per second.

8 With this new faster speed, at how many feet per second would WAL27 close the gap?


With the new faster speed, how many seconds will it take to close the gap?
$\square$
How fast is WAL27 closing the gap between the planes? That is, the difference between the planes changes how many feet each second?



Consider the general problem.


Do you have enough information to predict whether the trailing plane will catch up to the leading plane?
Yes
$\square$ No $\square$

If No, what other information do you need?
$\qquad$

- Now suppose the trailing plane is traveling faster than the leading plane.
- Also, suppose the difference in speeds is twice as great.

What would you expect to happen to the amount of time it would take the trailing plane to catch up to the leading plane?
$\qquad$

Why?

- Suppose the planes each travel at their original speeds, but the distance between the planes is twice as great.

What would you expect to happen to the amount of time it would take the trailing plane to catch up to the leading plane?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
Why? $\qquad$

## Your Task: When will the two planes violate the separation standard?



- For safety reasons, the planes must be separated by at least 5 feet at the point where the routes meet.

2) Answer the questions.

- Use the results of your calculations to answer this question.

How many seconds will it take WAL27 to close the gap from 10 feet to 5 feet? $\square$ seconds

What would you tell the air traffic controller to do to be sure the planes always meet the separation requirement?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

