

Absolute Value Visualization

Description

This visualization helps students to see absolute value equations and inequalities.

Prep Work

Have two tape measures.

Instructions

○ Pre Activity

None

○ Activity

- Discuss the concept of absolute value as distance.
- Take two tape measures and ask for two volunteers to come to the front of the room.
- Hold the ends of the two tape measures and have the two volunteers hold the tape measures. Ask them to stand 4ft away from you. This helps visualize the two solutions to an absolute value equation.
- Now have the class come to the front of the room and they must stand more than 4ft away from you. The class should split up and stand outside of the two volunteers holding the measuring tapes. This demonstrates the solution set for an absolute value greater than a value.
- Now tell the students they must stand less than 6ft from you. Now everyone should be gathered together into one group, demonstrating an absolute value less than a value.
- I do not point out the great than and less than relationship until they have physically done both. I stress that with greater than each student can stand either to my left **OR** to my right outside of the two volunteers, forming two groups. With a less than all the students must stand between one volunteer **AND** the other, forming one group.
- You can use the visual of **greatOR** and **less thAND**.

○ Post Activity

None

Time Required

15 minutes
