

# Up Shirt Creek

## Systems of Equations Mastery Task



**Teach systems in  
a real-world  
setting.**

### Included with this project

- Teachers Instructional Guide
  - Student Instructions
- Individual Data Analysis Worksheet
- Combined Data Analysis Worksheet
- Seven Enrichment Extension Ideas
  - Sample Key
  - Grading Rubric

### Common Core State Standards

7.EE.A.1, 7.EE.A.2, 7.EE.A.3, 7.EE.A.4, 8.EE.B.5, 8.EE.C.7, 8.EE.C.8, 8.F.A.2,  
8.F.A.3, 8.F.A.4, HSA.CED.A.1, HSA.CED.A.2, HSA.CED.A.3, HSA.REI.B.3,  
HSA.REI.C.5, HSA.REI.C.6, HSA.REI.C.7, HSA.REI.D.11, HSF.IF.B.6, HSF.IF.C.7

# Table of Contents

Cover Sheet		Page 1
Table of Contents		Page 2
Instructions		
	Instruction for Teachers	Page 3
	Extension Ideas	Page 6
Materials		
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form A	Page 8
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form B	Page 12
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form C	Page 16
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form D	Page 20
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form E	Page 24
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form F	Page 28
	Up Shirt Creek Student Worksheet – Form GATE	Page 32
Answer Keys		
	Project Answer Key – Includes Version A table & graph	Page 36
	Version B Table Key	Page 40
	Version B Graph Key	Page 41
	Version C Table Key	Page 42
	Version C Graph Key	Page 43
	Version D Table Key	Page 44
	Version D Graph Key	Page 45
	Version E Table Key	Page 46
	Version E Graph Key	Page 47
	Version F Table Key	Page 48
	Version F Graph Key	Page 49

# MATERIALS MATERIALS MATERIALS MATERIALS

## Up Shirt Creek Mastery Task



### Instructions for Teachers

#### Purpose

Up Shirt Creek Mastery Task gives students an opportunity to use systems of equations in a real-world context. Students will use linear equations to determine the expense and revenue of a start-up t-shirt shop called "Up Shirt Creek." They will use the information provided to find the rate of change of each linear equation and write these equations in slope intercept form. This information will then be used to complete a table of values and a graph the system. Students will decipher the significance of their findings and give meaning to the term "profit." This task creates depth and complexity to the understanding of values within a system of equations, and the use of systems find the "break even" point.

Students will:

- Determine the cost of purchasing t-shirts from the wholesaler.
- Calculate the income from selling t-shirts to the public.
- Create equations in slope intercept form to represent expense and revenue.
- Assess profit.
- Find meaning in negative solutions regarding income, expense and profit.
- Build a table of values to represent expense and revenue.
- Graph the linear system based on the data.
- Evaluate the "break even" point of the system.
- Analyze the graph for profit margins.



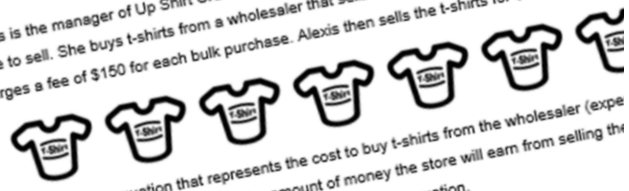
#### Organization

Six versions of the task are included for struggling and average students. A seventh version of the task is included for gifted or advanced students. Each version of the task is identical, only the values have been changed. This allows students to work collaboratively while still testing their individual understanding by completing their own calculations. Students can be placed in groups with the same version of the task or students can be placed in mixed groups.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### Up Shirt Creek Finding Profit Selling t-shirts

Alexis is the manager of Up Shirt Creek, a clothing store. She is in charge of buying t-shirts for the store to sell. She buys t-shirts from a wholesaler that sells them for \$5 each. The wholesaler charges a fee of \$150 for each bulk purchase. Alexis then sells the t-shirts for \$15 each.



- Part 1** Write an equation that represents the cost to buy t-shirts from the wholesaler (expense) and a second equation that represents the amount of money the store will earn from selling the t-shirts (revenue). Describe what your variables represent in this equation.
- Calculate the cost to buy 10 t-shirts from the wholesaler. Write solution as an ordered pair.
  - Calculate the amount of money the store will earn from selling 10 t-shirts. Write solution as an ordered pair.
  - Calculate the profit the store will make from selling 10 t-shirts.
  - What does your answer to part (c) mean?
  - Calculate the cost to buy 50 t-shirts from the wholesaler. Write solution as an ordered pair.
  - Calculate the amount of money the store will earn from selling 50 t-shirts. Write solution as an ordered pair.
  - Calculate the profit the store will make from selling 50 t-shirts.
  - What does your answer to part (g) mean?

**Method B – assessment of learning**  
 Method B saves the entire task for the end of the unit. Traditionally, this is where a formal exam comes in. If this project is used as a summative assessment it can raise rigor, save time and because the students work together, increase engagement. Even though students work together, most of the project is unique, so it is easy to determine mastery. The down side is grading by hand. Peer editing can still be used initially but if the project is summative it must be graded by the teacher. Alternatively, this assignment may be used as a review to prepare for a more traditional exam. It takes 2 to 3 days to complete when used as a project or assessment.

**Emergency Sub Plans**  
 Up Shirt Creek Mastery Task is an excellent choice for emergency sub plans. This project can be easily used by most substitute teachers. Let's face it, it is hard to find a sub who knows middle school or high school math. It's practically impossible to find a math proficient sub at the last minute. You need a lesson that is understood by both the sub and the students yet is engaging enough to keep students productive and on task. Most adults can relate to the idea of income and expense and imagine how they would run a business. This project takes two to three 50-minute blocks for students to complete. The extension ideas that may be included have the students imagine that they are the entrepreneur. There are also extension ideas that factor in depth and complexity. The extension ideas are equally relevant to students completing Algebra 1, Honors Geometry and regular Algebra 2 students.



**Project Extensions**  
 Below I have included some ideas for extensions of the Up Shirt Creek Mastery Task. The more creative the assignment the more challenging and rewarding the task.

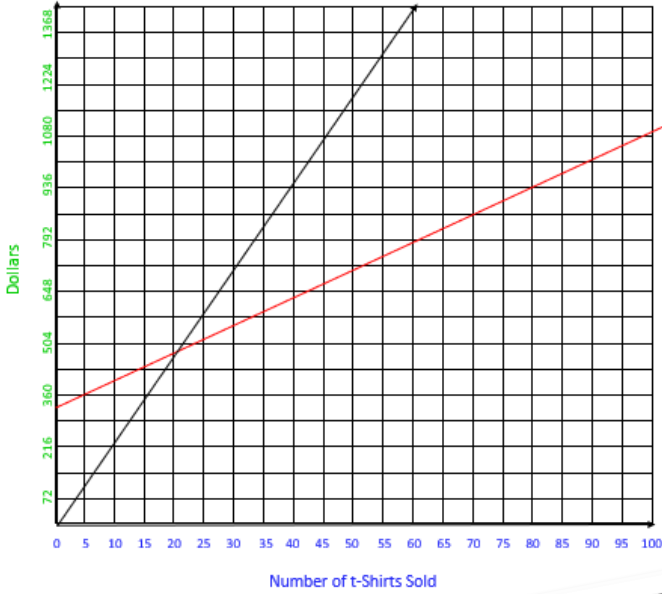
- Extension Questions: An easy project extension is to have students choose one of the questions below and solve. These extension questions can be used for both regular and advanced students.
  - You break even in half the time expected. Congratulations! How will you re-invest these profits to continue growth? Will you add a new line of products, add a location, purchase a competitor or something else? Explain with mathematical predictions.
  - It took you twice as long to "break even" than you predicted. How are you going to adjust your business model to increase your profit margin? Will you lower your costs or increase your revenue? How will you do this? Explain and include mathematical predictions.
- Logo: Create a logo for your business. Feel free to change the name of your business. The logo should be in full color. Include a short explanation of why you chose this logo.  
 Sample logos:
- Motto: Create a motto for your business. Include a short explanation of why you chose this motto.  
 Examples: "Life's Good." "Quality is job one." "Don't be evil." "Just do it." "Finger lickin' good."
- Jingle: Create a jingle for your business. It should have a tune and words. Perform your jingle or record a video of your jingle. Examples can be found at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g21nfd0\\_3Aw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g21nfd0_3Aw) or other YouTube videos. Be catchy, corny, unique and unforgettable. Think of those tunes that you can't get out of your mind, even though you may want to.
- Commercial: Make a Commercial for your business. Your commercial should emphasize those characteristics that make your business unique. Give customers a reason to patronize your store rather than your competition. Think of YouTube videos that went viral. What made them unique? Use your cell phone, tablet or laptop to record your commercial.

Part 3 Create a graph of both the cost and income equations on the coordinate plane. Use the given bounds and intervals.

Variable Quantity	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Interval
t-Shirts	0	100	5
Money	0	1440	72



Profit from t-Shirt Sales



**Part 4 Making a Profit**

a. Determine the number of t-shirts for which the cost to buy them is greater than income from selling them. **Explain your reasoning.**  
*Students may use any method of solving a system to find this answer, however, the graphing method is not precise enough for several versions.*

A)  $5x + 150 = 15x$   $x < 15$   
 B)  $8x + 288 = 24x$   $x < 16$   
 C)  $4x + 144 = 12x$   $x < 18$   
 D)  $10x + 300 = 30x$   $x < 15$   
 E)  $12x + 432 = 36x$   $x < 18$   
 F)  $6x + 180 = 18x$   $x < 15$

b. Determine the number of t-shirts for which the income from selling them is greater than the cost to buy them. **Explain your reasoning.**

A)  $5x + 150 = 15x$   $x > 15$   
 B)  $8x + 288 = 24x$   $x > 16$   
 C)  $4x + 144 = 12x$   $x > 18$   
 D)  $10x + 300 = 30x$   $x > 15$   
 E)  $12x + 432 = 36x$   $x > 18$   
 F)  $6x + 180 = 18x$   $x > 15$

c. Determine the break-even point for buying and selling the t-shirts.

A)  $5x + 150 = 15x$   $x = 15$   
 B)  $8x + 288 = 24x$   $x = 16$   
 C)  $4x + 144 = 12x$   $x = 18$   
 D)  $10x + 300 = 30x$   $x = 15$   
 E)  $12x + 432 = 36x$   $x = 18$   
 F)  $6x + 180 = 18x$   $x = 15$

What is the t-shirt store's profit at the break-even point? -

What is the point of intersection of the two lines?

(15, 225)  
 (6, 384)  
 (1, 216)  
 (450)

Part 2 Complete the table to show the cost of buying t-shirts from the wholesaler and income for different numbers of t-shirts. ~ Version B is shown.

Quantity Name	Number of t-Shirts	Expense (Cost)	Revenue (Income)
Unit	t-Shirts	Dollars	Dollars
Expression	X	$y = 8x + 288$	$y = 24x$
	0	288	0
	10	368	240
	30	528	720
	45	648	1080
	70	848	1680
	80	928	1920

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Producing and Selling T-Shirts**  
**Using a Graph to Solve a Linear System**

Alexis is the manager of Up Shirt Creek, a clothing store. She is in charge of buying t-shirts to sell. She buys t-shirts from a wholesaler that sells them for \$5 each. The wholesaler charges a fee of \$150 for each bulk purchase. Alexis then sells the t-shirts for \$15 each.



**Part 1** Write an equation that represents the cost to buy t-shirts from the wholesaler and a second equation that represents the amount of money the store will earn from selling (revenue). Describe what your variables represent in this equation.

- A)  $y = 5x + 150$   $y = 15x$   
 B)  $y = 8x + 288$   $y = 24x$   
 C)  $y = 4x + 144$   $y = 12x$   
 D)  $y = 10x + 300$   $y = 30x$   
 E)  $y = 12x + 432$   $y = 36x$   
 F)  $y = 6x + 180$   $y = 18x$

a. Calculate the cost to buy 10 t-shirts from the wholesaler.

- A)  $y = 5(10) + 150$   $y = 200$   
 B)  $y = 8(10) + 288$   $y = 368$   
 C)  $y = 4(10) + 144$   $y = 184$   
 D)  $y = 10(10) + 300$   $y = 400$   
 E)  $y = 12(10) + 432$   $y = 552$   
 F)  $y = 6(10) + 180$   $y = 240$

b. Calculate the amount of money the store will earn from selling

- A)  $y = 15(10)$   $y = 150$   
 B)  $y = 24(10)$   $y = 240$   
 C)  $y = 12(10)$   $y = 120$   
 D)  $y = 30(10)$   $y = 300$   
 E)  $y = 36(10)$   $y = 360$   
 F)  $y = 18(10)$   $y = 180$

