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Methods for Teaching  
Middle and Secondary Mathematics

## **Are You Smarter Than a SMART Board?**

**"It's like teaching in the classroom of the future.**

**For the first time, we don't have to ask, 'how is technology helping instruction?"**

### **What is a SMART board?**

According to Wikipedia, the SMART Board interactive whiteboard is a product of SMART Technologies. It is a large, touch-controlled screen that works with a projector and a computer. The projector casts the computer's desktop image onto the interactive whiteboard, which acts as both a monitor and an input device. Users can write on the interactive whiteboard in digital ink or use a finger to control computer applications by pointing, clicking and dragging, just as with a desktop mouse. Buttons launch a popup keyboard and a right-mouse-click menu for more input options. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is usually mounted on a wall or floor stand. It can be used in face-to-face or virtual settings. SMART introduced the first interactive whiteboard in 1991. SMART Board interactive whiteboards are used in education, business and government as an interactive presentation, communication and distance-collaboration tool.

### **Why would you want one in your classroom?**

A SMART Board is a new and creative way to use guided notes in your classroom. You can create your notes with pieces missing and have you and your students fill in the blanks as you go along in your lesson plan. The thing that separates the SMART Board from a projector is that you can have your students come up and write on it just as they were writing on a white board or a chalk board. No messy chalk or dry erase markers to deal with. You can create problems on a word document and have them projected on the screen. Have students walk up to the board and solve the problems, and you can have the remaining class work it out at their seat or watch and try to catch any mistakes.

### **SMARTer Power Point: Keys to success with using the SMART board and Power Point.**

- The first step is to set up the smart board with power point.
- To begin your slide show you hit view slide show on your computer and if your SMART board is connected properly it should show on your screen.
- When using a SMART board and PowerPoint, you will automatically get a slide show toolbar on your interactive white board. This is your key to success with your power point.



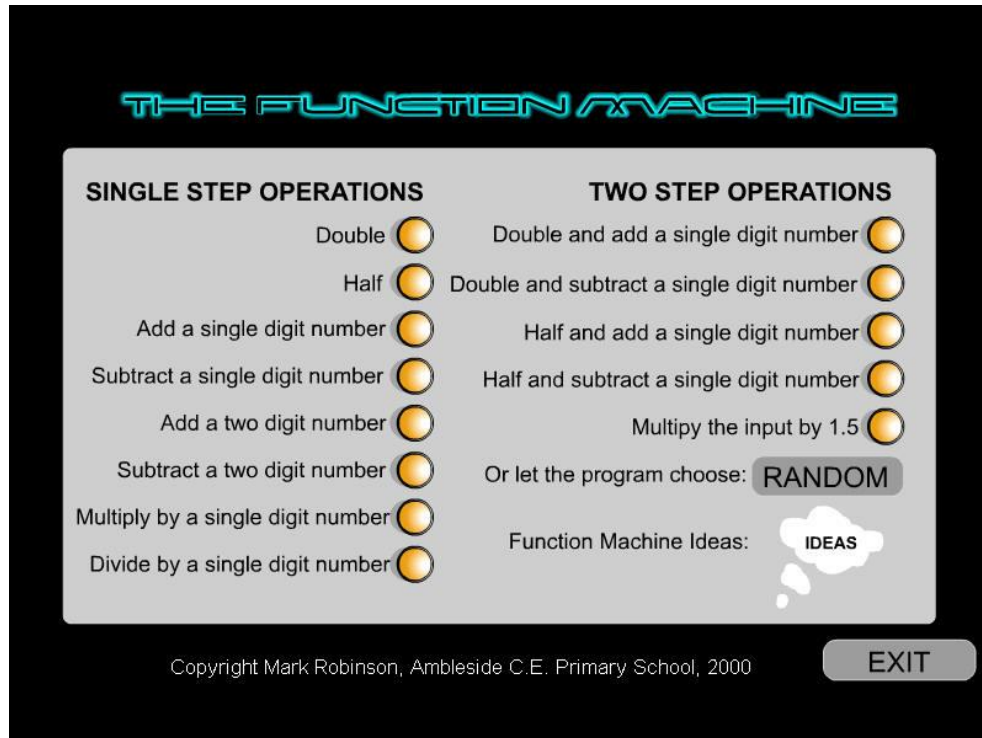
- 1: Go to previous slide
  - 2: Opens the command menu:
  - 3: Next slide in your presentation
- Another way of moving to the next slide in your presentation is to click twice on your interactive white board.
  - To go forward you must make your second press to the right of the first press.
  - To return to the previous slide make your second press the left of your first.
  - One key feature of the SMART board is the SMART pens. These allow you to add information as you go into your power point on the smart board.
  - On the SMART board, instead of using the mouse from the computer your finger acts as your cursor.
  - Using a power point with the SMART board can be very useful and help create a more interactive classroom.

For more in-depth descriptions of some other features of the SMART Board, visit this website: <http://smarttech.com/media/trainingcenter/95PowerPoint.pdf>

What features are most useful to you in your high school classroom? How do they work?

### The Function Machine

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The Function Machine allows you to put in a number on one end of the machine and it will output another number. Then in the next picture you can see that the students have options to choose from to see how to get from the inputted number to the outputted number. This is a great interactive activity to be used to in the middle school classroom or up the level for a higher level mathematics.

### The Algebra Quiz

The Algebra Quiz is an interactive way to involve all different levels of algebra in your classroom. In the first picture you can see that you can choose several different options

- one step
- two step
- quadratic
- variable on both sides
- using the distributive property

Also you can choose the different time limits and levels of difficulties. The students could work the problems out and try to finish within the time limit. The second picture shows the next screen that comes up after you have chosen all of your options. The following screen shots are examples of how the game works. The link to this great game and others is here <http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/>

# Welcome to Algebra Quiz!



Choose settings and click "Start Game."

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Time Limit:

Difficulty:

Problem Type(s):

- Variable on Both Sides
- Distributive Property
- Quadratic
- Two-Step Problems
- One-Step Problems

Solve

$$28 = 4x$$

for  $x$ .

Player

Enter your response.

**NOW Are You Smarter Than a SMART Board?**