In Search of the Holy Grail

A Mathematical Project for Students

Barbara Healy BSc BEd

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My name is ________________________________

- I commenced my search for the Holy Grail
  at (time)___________________________________
  on (day) ___________________________________
  date  ________________________________

- I found the Holy Grail
  at (time)___________________________________
  on (day) ___________________________________
  date  ________________________________

- The time taken on my journey to find the Holy Grail was
  ________________________________
A NOTE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS.

- It has been found that this activity occupies a year 8 student for approximately one week including class time and homework.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS.

- The purpose of this unit of work, based on the theme “In search of the Holy Grail”, is to help you to revise your mathematics in the context of a problem solving activity.

- Diagrams in this book are not drawn to scale. Use the measurements on each of the diagrams in your calculations.

- When you have found the answers to the clues, put the points on the graph sheet at the back of the book. When you join these points in the order given towards the end of the booklet you will find the Holy Grail.

- Use pencil for all graph work and number the points on your graph paper with the number of the clue.
You are to join Sir Galahad, Sir Lancelot, Sir Bors, Sir Percival and Sir Arthur as they set out to find the Holy Grail. They leave from Camelot where they farewell the beautiful Lady Gweneveir. The City of Camelot, from where they depart, can be located by the co-ordinates (0, 0). Follow the clues, mapping the points on your graph page and see if you can find the Holy Grail.

As you mark each point on your graph, put the number of the clue beside the point.

CLUE 1.
Starting at (0, 0) move 2 units up the y axis. Write the co-ordinates of the point you have found in the space below. Now mark this point on the graph paper at the back of this booklet and label it 1.

Use the graph paper below to work out your answer to Clue 2.

CLUE 2.
Using pencil, draw the line $y = -2$ on your graph. Reflect your answer to Clue 1 in the mirror placed along the line $y = -2$. Write the co-ordinates of the point you have found in the space below. Now mark this point on the graph paper at the back of this booklet and label it 2.
You can now return with the Holy Grail to Camelot and live happily ever after!
Plot all your points on this graph.
Mathematical Projects for Students

- Bring mathematics to life with these projects for students.
- Introduce new topics and revise work
- Provide extra work for mathematically gifted students
- Give a sense of achievement to students who find mathematics difficult.
Notes and Answers for Teacher Use
In Search of The Holy Grail
ISBN 1 876324 11 2
Barbara Healy BSc BEd

Five good reasons to use this project with your students.
• Bring mathematics to life with this project.
• Introduce new topics and revise work covered during the year.
• Provide extra work for mathematically gifted students
• Give a sense of achievement to students who find mathematics difficult.
• Classroom trials show that students love doing this project.

Knowledge needed to find the Holy Grail
• negative numbers
• plotting co-ordinates
• graphing straight lines from given points
• gradient and Y intercept given the equation of the straight line
• circumference of a circle
• areas of circle, square, parallelogram, triangle, trapezium, hexagon
• volume of a cuboid
• algebraic substitution solving algebraic equations
• angles in a straight line
• complementary angles
• vertically opposite angles
• alternate angles
• co-interior angles
• corresponding angles

Project will occupy a junior secondary student for 1 week
(class time & homework)

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