Investigating Algebra Activity: Solving $x^2 = d$ by Taking Square Roots

For use before the lesson "Use Square Roots to Solve Quadratic Equations"

Materials: paper and pencil

QUESTION How can you solve a quadratic equation of the form $x^2 = d$ by finding square roots?

EXPLORE Determine number of solutions

STEP 1 Complete table

Copy and complete the table for each function in the first column.

Function	x-value						
	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
$y = x^2$	$y = (-3)^2 = 9$						
$y = x^2 - 4$							
$y = x^2 + 4$							

STEP 2 Graph functions

Plot the points generated by the table to graph each function.

STEP 3 Analyze graphs

How many x-intercepts does each function have, if any? What are the x-intercepts?

The related equations for each function in the Explore are $x^2 = 0$, $x^2 = 4$, and $x^2 = -4$. Complete the statement using your observations from the Explore.

- **1.** In the equation $x^2 = d$, if d > 0, then $x^2 = d$ has ? solution(s). The solution(s) are ? .
- **2.** In the equation $x^2 = d$, if d = 0, then $x^2 = d$ has ? solution(s). The solution(s) are __?__.
- **3.** In the equation $x^2 = d$, if d < 0, then $x^2 = d$ has $\underline{\ \ ?}$ solution(s). The solution(s) are __?__.

Determine how many solutions the quadratic equation has. Then solve the equation.

4.
$$n^2 = -9$$

5.
$$m^2 = 16$$

6.
$$y^2 - 4 = -4$$

7.
$$k^2 + 10 = 46$$
 8. $2c^2 = -32$ **9.** $6x^2 = 0$

8.
$$2c^2 = -32$$

9.
$$6x^2 = 0$$