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Unit 7 - Exploring Derivatives- Group Activity

I. Average Rate of Change - Find the average rate of change of the function over the given interval

$$f(x) = 2x - 5; [3, 7]$$

$$\frac{f(7) - f(3)}{7 - 3} = \frac{9 - 1}{4} = \boxed{2}$$

$$f(x) = x^2 + 3x; [-1, 3]$$

$$\frac{f(3) - f(-1)}{3 - (-1)} = \frac{18 + 2}{4} = \boxed{5}$$

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x+4}; [0, 5]$$

$$\frac{f(5) - f(0)}{5 - 0} = \frac{3 - 2}{5} = \boxed{\frac{1}{5}}$$

II. Formal Definition of Derivatives - Use the formal definition of derivatives to find the derivative and then evaluate at the given points.

$$f(x) = 2x - 5; x=3; x=7$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$\frac{2(x+h) - 5 - (2x - 5)}{h}$$

$$\frac{2x + 2h - 5 - 2x + 5}{h} = \frac{2h}{h} = \boxed{2}$$

$$f(x) = x^2 + 3x; x=-1; x=3$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$\frac{(x+h)^2 + 3(x+h) - (x^2 + 3x)}{h}$$

$$\frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 + 3x + 3h - x^2 - 3x}{h}$$

$$\frac{h(2x + h + 3)}{h} = \boxed{2x + 3}$$

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x+4}; [0, 5]; x=0; x=5$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{x+h+4} - \sqrt{x+4}}{h}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{x+h+4} - \sqrt{x+4}}{h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x+h+4} + \sqrt{x+4}}{\sqrt{x+h+4} + \sqrt{x+4}}$$

$$\frac{x+h+4 - (x+4)}{h(\sqrt{x+h+4} + \sqrt{x+4})} = \frac{h}{h(\sqrt{x+h+4} + \sqrt{x+4})} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h+4} + \sqrt{x+4}}$$

III. Use the TI-89 calculator to find the derivative of the following:

$f(x) = 12 \quad \text{O}$

$f(x) = \pi \quad \text{O}$

$f(x) = 42 \quad \text{O}$

$f(x) = -100 \quad \text{O}$

$f(x) = e \quad \text{O}$

$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{O}$

- All of the above functions are constants and their derivative is 0.
- From our discussion on derivatives yesterday, explain why you think the derivative of all the above functions is 0.

The slope of a horizontal line is 0.