

SOLVING EQUATIONS: HOW SWEET IT IS!

GRADES 8–10
LORINDA DEVAIES

OVERVIEW:

In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to solve linear equations with variables on both sides using a hands-on approach. By modeling equations with candy and gum, students will find that they can have fun solving equations.

ITV SERIES:

The Power Of Algebra #1: Inverse Operations

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The students will be able to:

- Realize the usefulness of equations and algebra in solving everyday problems
- Use the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division properties of equality to solve equations
- Use inverse operations to solve equations
- Solve linear equations with variables on both sides of the equation
- See the advantage of getting variables together first and keeping the variable positive
- Set up models of equations and solve them through a hands-on experience

VOCABULARY:

Equation
Opposite
Inverse operation
Variable
Solution

MATERIALS:

FOR THE TEACHER:

- overhead projector
- Cutouts for the overhead that look like candy canes, peppermints and bubble gum



peppermint candy cane = x



flavored candy cane = $-x$



peppermint = 1



bubble gum = -1

Naturally, bubble gum will be negative for the classroom!

You may use algebra tiles instead. You need two different colors to represent positive and negative, and two sizes of each color to represent $x/-x$ and $1/-1$.