Algebra Basics - Study Notes

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What is algebra?

Algebra uses letters (variables) such as x to stand for unknown numbers. Example: if x + 3 = 7, then x = 4.

Solving one-step equations

Do the opposite operation to both sides. x + 5 = 12 -> subtract 5 -> x = 7. 3x = 18 -> divide by 3 -> x = 6.

Two-step equations

2x + 3 = 11. Subtract 3: 2x = 8. Divide by 2: x = 4. Always check: 2(4) + 3 = 11.

Like terms

3x + 2x = 5x. You can only add terms with the same variable and power.

Practice

1) x - 4 = 10 2) 5x = 35 3) 3x + 2 = 20 4) Simplify 4a + 3b - a. Answers: 14, 7, 6, 3a + 3b.

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