

## Section 2.6 Rational Functions and Asymptotes

**Objective:** In this lesson you learned how to determine the domain and find asymptotes of rational functions.

Course Number

Instructor

Date

### Important Vocabulary

Define each term or concept.

**Rational function**

**Vertical asymptote**

**Horizontal asymptote**

### I. Introduction to Rational Functions (Page 189)

The domain of a rational function of  $x$  includes all real numbers except . . .

To find the domain of a rational function of  $x$ , . . .

#### *What you should learn*

How to find domains of rational functions

**Example 1:** Find the domain of the function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 9}$ .

### II. Horizontal and Vertical Asymptotes (Pages 190–192)

The notation “ $f(x) \rightarrow 5$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ” means . . .

Describe the end behavior of a rational function in relation to its horizontal asymptote.

#### *What you should learn*

How to find horizontal and vertical asymptotes of graphs of rational functions

Let  $f$  be the rational function given by

$$f(x) = \frac{N(x)}{D(x)} = \frac{a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0}{b_m x^m + b_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \cdots + b_1 x + b_0}$$

where  $N(x)$  and  $D(x)$  have no common factors.

- 1) The graph of  $f$  has vertical asymptotes at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) The graph of  $f$  has at most one horizontal asymptote determined by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) If  $n < m$ , \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) If  $n = m$ , \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) If  $n > m$ , the graph of  $f$  has \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

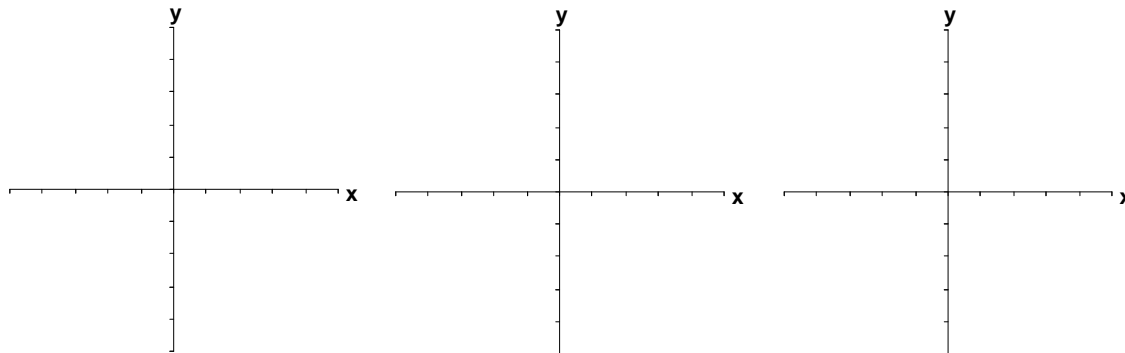
**Example 2:** Find the asymptotes of the function

$$f(x) = \frac{2x-1}{x^2-x-6}$$

### III. Applications of Rational Functions (Pages 193–194)

Give an example of asymptotic behavior that occurs in real life.

*What you should learn*  
How to use rational functions to model and solve real-life problems



#### Homework Assignment

Page(s)

Exercises