

# FUNCTIONS

## **Grades 5 - 7 Patterns, Functions, and Algebra Benchmarks:**

- B. Represent, analyze, and generalize a variety of patterns and functions with tables, graphs, words, and symbolic rules.
- E. Use rules and variables to describe patterns, functions, and other relationships.
- L. Analyze functional relationships, and explain how a change in one quantity results in a change in the other.
- M. Approximate and interpret rates of change from graphical and numerical data.

## **I. Informal Discussion of Functions**

Discuss the following questions with your group:

1. What does the word “function” mean in everyday language?
2. What does the word “function” mean in mathematical language?
  - a. What are the defining attributes of a function?
  - b. What are some of the uses of functions?
  - c. Can you give an example of a function?
  - d. Can you find a relation similar to your example that is NOT a function?
3. In what ways can functions be represented?
4. How are different representations of a function related?