

DesCartes – Resource from NWEA for Instructional Planning

DesCartes is a tool from NWEA that makes connections between specific academic skills and RIT scores. DesCartes is organized by goal area (ie. Math – Measurement) and sub-goal (ie. Time and Money). The learning statements in DesCartes are organized in blocks of ten RIT points, allowing you to see where your students are along the continuum of skills and to see what skills come next.

DesCartes can be used for:

- Planning small group instruction, including flexible grouping
- Goal setting
- Creating centers, homework, or other assignments based on skills needed for each student
- Providing students, parents, and aides with specific skill sets for a student to focus on

To Access DesCartes:

1. Log in to the site where you access your MAP reports
2. Look for the link to DesCartes under “Instructional Resources”

*** View DesCartes for a Student or Group of Students:

DesCartes can also be accessed directly from your Class Breakdown by RIT reports making it even easier to match skills to students and to organize flexible grouping and differentiated assignments.

1. Open report "Class Breakdown" or "Class by RIT"
2. Click on Math, Reading, or Language Usage
3. For each goal area desired, click on "All Students in Cell" to view DesCartes for the group of students (useful for flexible grouping and differentiating)

The Class Breakdown by RIT reports show students in blocks of ten RIT points, just like DesCartes.

Match the students to the block of skills in DesCartes at the same RIT range to see what they are ready to learn right now.

Additional Resources from NWEA:

(Available from NWEA after logging in to their reports site)

- “Essentials” - More information about DesCartes, including Teacher Tips
- “Vocabulary by Subject Area and RIT Range” - Lists vocabulary words introduced at each RIT level
- “Signs and Symbols by Subject Area and RIT Range” - Lists signs/symbols introduced at each RIT level

For More Information about DesCartes: www.nwea.org/tools/descartes/

Subject: Mathematics
Goal Strand: Geometry
RIT Score Range: 181 - 190

Skills and Concepts to Enhance 171 - 180	Skills and Concepts to Develop 181 - 190	Skills and Concepts to Introduce 191 - 200
Reason with Shapes and their Attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and names a triangle • Identifies and names a square • Identifies and names a rectangle* • Identifies and names a circle* • Id- • 	Reason with Shapes and their Attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compares squares (larger, smaller) • Identifies and names multiple shapes (e.g., square, rectangle, triangle, circle)* • Classifies polygons by sides and vertices • Id- • 	Reason with Shapes and their Attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and names a polygon* • Identifies the number of faces on rectangular prisms • Identifies and names a cylinder • Identifies and names a sphere • Se- •
<p>LEFT COLUMN: Skills and Concepts to Enhance</p> <p>Skills on which the student is closer to approaching mastery</p>	<p>MIDDLE COLUMN: Skills and Concepts to Develop</p> <p>Where the student's RIT score falls</p> <p>Represents the student's Instructional Level, the skills he or she should be working on right now.</p> <p>A RIT score represents the level at which the student answered the questions correctly 50% of the time.</p>	<p>RIGHT COLUMN: Skills and Concepts to Introduce</p> <p>Skills to work toward</p> <p>Use for goal setting and future instructional planning</p>

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