5.G Meerkat Coordinate Plane Task

Task

Greetings from the Kalahari Desert in South Africa! In this activity, you will learn a lot about the Kalahari's most playful residents: meerkats.
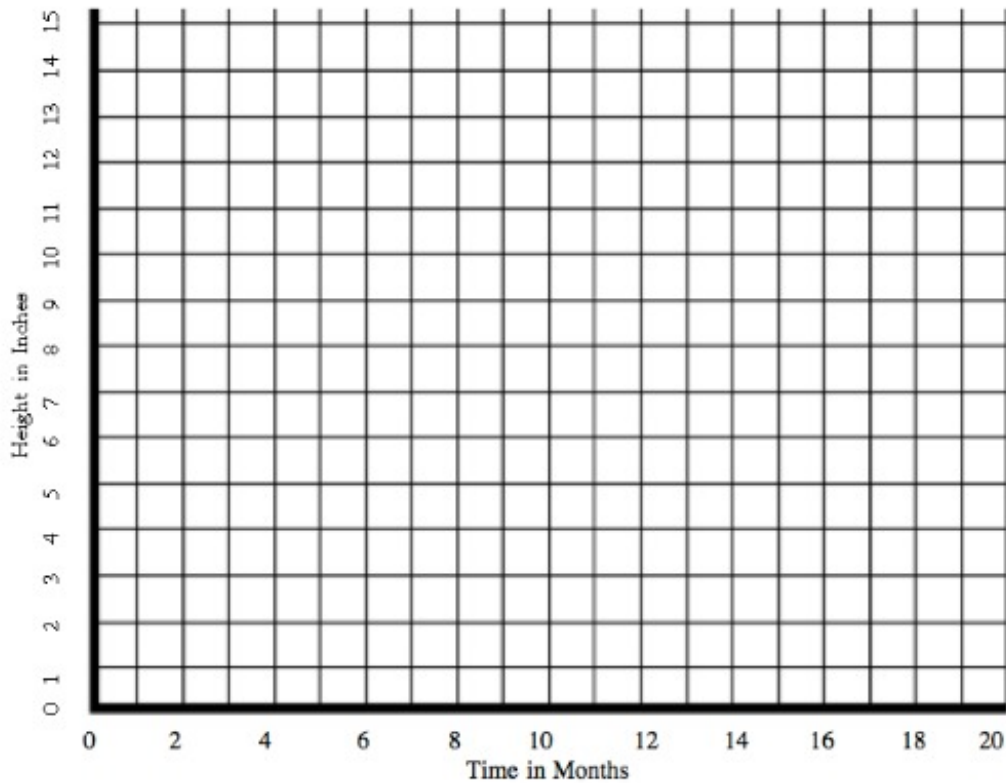
a. The following ordered pairs show the height of a typical meerkat at different times during the first 20 months of life. Graph the corresponding points and see what you can discover about meerkats. Once you have graphed them all, connect the points in the order they are given to form a line graph.

See if you can graph these ordered pairs:
(0 months, 3 inches)
(2 months, 5 inches)
(4 months, 6 inches)
(6 months, 7 inches)
(8 months, 8 inches)
(10 months, 9 inches)
(12 months, 10 inches)
(14 months, 12 inches)
(16 months, 12 inches)
(18 months, 12 inches)
(20 months, 12 inches)

Title: Meerkat Height in Inches Over First 20 Months

b. What does the point (0 months, 3 inches) mean for a typical meerkat's height?

c. How tall do you think a typical meerkat gets? Why?

d. At what age do meerkats reach their full height? How do you know from this graph?

e. If this graph were about a human instead of a meerkat, at what age do you think the height would stop getting larger?