Mathematics, Algebra I Unit V: Lesson A3

Application / Display: "Can I Borrow the Car?..."



The cost per month of operating a car depends on the number of miles driven. Check "Consumer Reports", or a similar source, for these costs for several models of cars. Find the answers to these questions: Do long trips cost less per mile than trips in city traffic? How do automobile costs compare with other forms of transportation?

Assuming that a linear function is a suitable model for the variation in cost per month with distance, derive the equation. Predict the monthly cost of driving your parents' car 300, 500, and 1500 miles per month. Use your formula to help plan the transportation costs of your family's next vacation.

Arrange to put up a bulletin board displaying your results. Use model cars and other visual items to enhance the display.