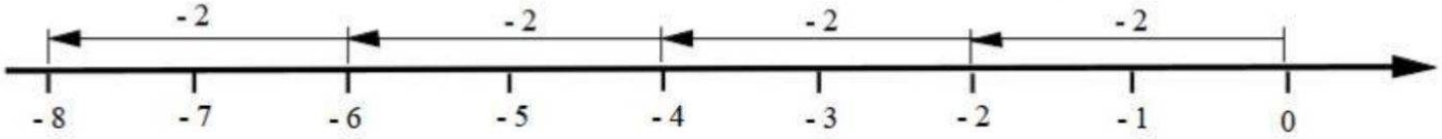
Devised by Sidney Schuman in 1973 during his teacher training at Stockwell College, Bromley

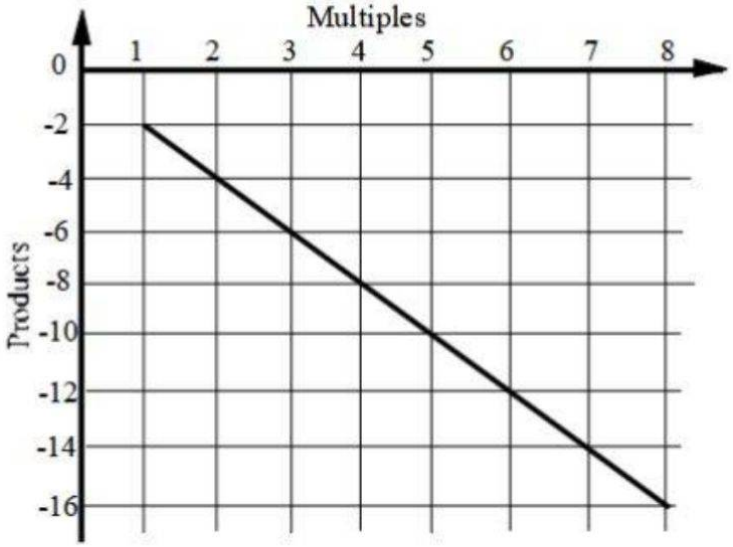
Products of Negative Numbers

Before looking at products of two negative numbers, we note that products of positive and negative numbers are negative. For example here is how 4×-2 is shown (by repeated addition along the number line) to be equal to -8:

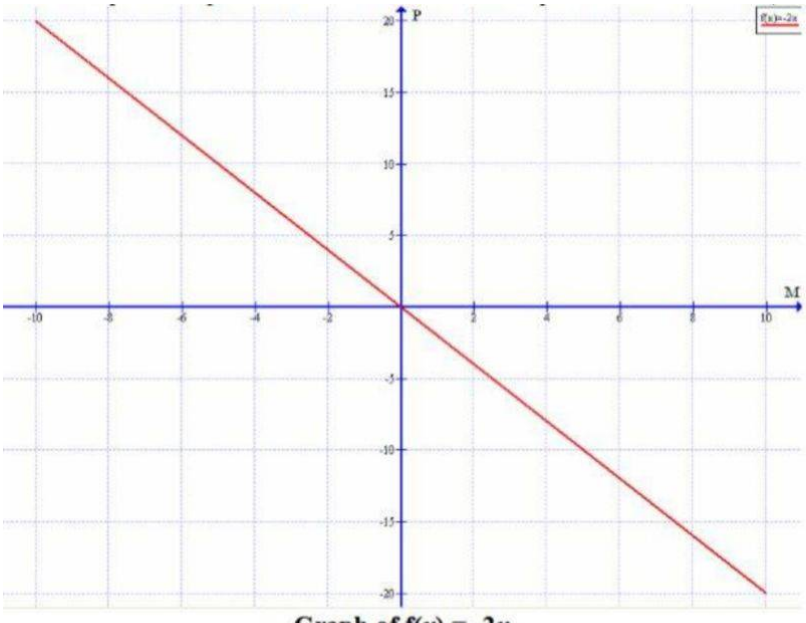


There are of course an infinite number of positive multiples of -2. We plot a graph below showing some of these:

Multiples	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Products	-2	-4	-6	-8	-10	-12	-14	-16



Since there are an infinite number of multiples of -2, this graph line can be extended as far as we like as shown below. We then find that -5 on the M-axis corresponds with 10 on the P-axis. This means that the product of -5 and -2 is 10. In fact any negative multiple of -2 corresponds to a positive number. We have used multiples of -2 to demonstrate (not prove!) the rule:



Graph of f(x) = -2x

Showing that the product of two negative numbers is a positive number