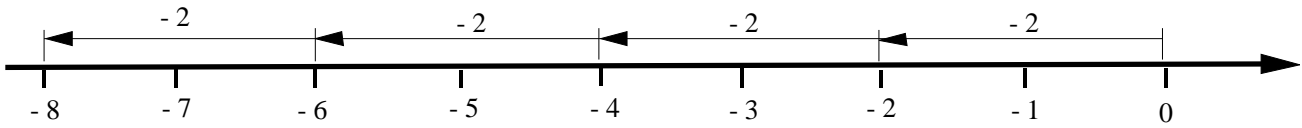


Products of Negative Numbers

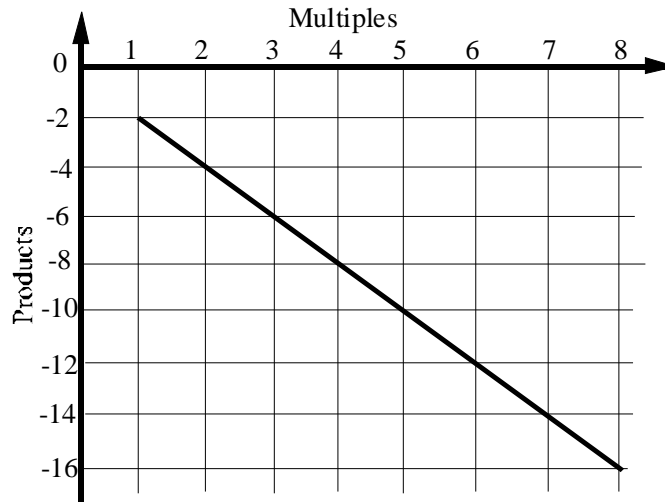
Before looking at products of two negative numbers, we note that products of positive and negative numbers are negative.

For example here is how 4×-2 is shown (by repeated addition along the number line) to be equal to -8 :

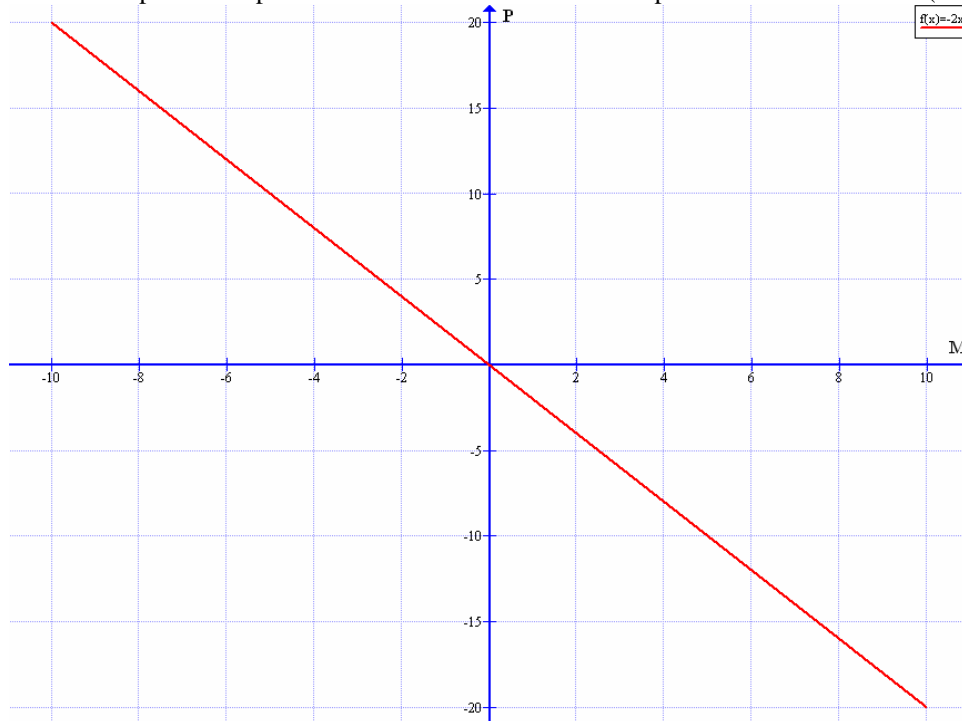


There are of course an infinite number of positive multiples of -2 . We plot a graph below showing some of these:

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