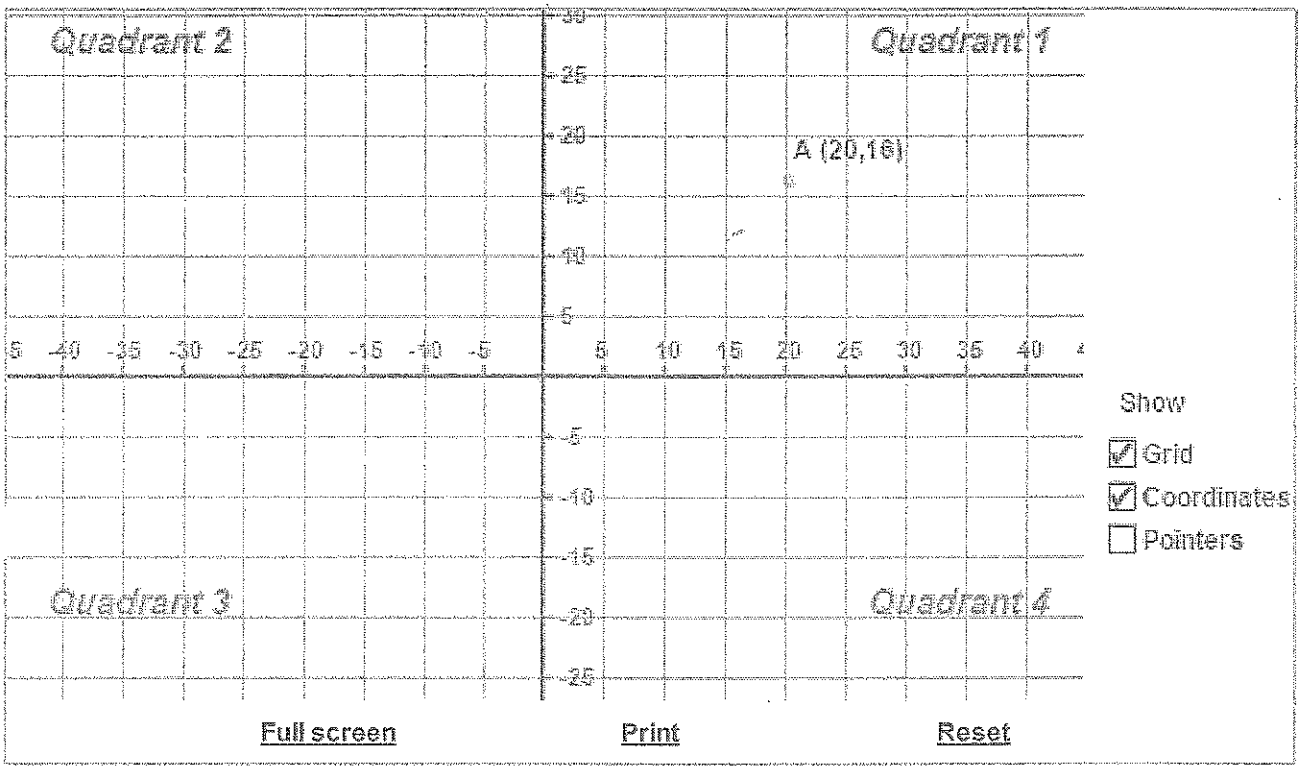
Coordinate Plane

A two-dimensional surface on which points are plotted and located by their x and y coordinates

Try this Drag the point A. As you drag note the two numbers that define its position on the plane. Drag the origin to reposition the axes.



The coordinate plane is a two-dimensional surface on which we can plot points, lines and curves. It has two scales, called the *x*-axis and *y*-axis, at right angles to each other. The plural of axis is 'axes' (pronounced "AXE-ease"). Points on the plane are located using two numbers - thye x and y coordinates. These are the horizontal and vertical distances of the point from a specific location called the origin.

X axis

The horizontal scale is called the *x*-axis. As you go to the right on the scale from zero, the values are positive and get larger. As you go to the left from zero, they get more and more negative.

Y axis

he vertical scale is called the *y*-axis. As you go up from zero the numbers are increasing in a positive direction. As you go down from zero they get more and more negative.