Mastering the Grid: A Guide to Coordinates with Max the Monkey

Get ready to unlock the secrets of the grid—where every point tells a story!

■ **The x-axis is the horizontal line that runs left to right, while the y-axis is the vertical line that runs up and down.**

■ **Always remember the golden rule: 'Along the corridor and up the stairs!' You must move along the x-axis first, then move up or down the y-axis.**

■ **The origin is the starting point where the x and y axes meet. Its coordinates are always (0, 0).**

■ **A coordinate pair is written in brackets like this: (x, y). The first number is your horizontal position, and the second number is your vertical position.**

■ **The grid is divided into four quadrants. If you cross over the origin into negative numbers, you are still using the same simple rules!**

Did you know? Did you know that the coordinate system we use today is often called the Cartesian plane? It was named after René Descartes, a mathematician who had the brilliant idea of using two intersecting lines to map out the world, inspired by watching a fly buzz around his ceiling!

Key vocabulary: Origin · X-axis · Y-axis · Quadrant · Horizontal · Vertical · Coordinate pair